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CHIROPTICAL STUDIES OF NUCLEOSIDES AND
THEIR PERIODATE OXIDIZED-BOROHYDRIDE REDUCED PRODUCTS

by
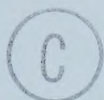
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A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND
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The undersigned certify that they have read, and
recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research,
for acceptance, a thesis entitled CHIROPTICAL STUDIES OF
NUCLEOSIDES AND THEIR PERIODATE OXIDIZED-BOROHYDRIDE REDUCED
PRODUCTS submitted by Shin Sugiyama in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in
Chemistry.

ABSTRACT

Fifty-four pentofuranosyl nucleosides and methyl β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranoside were oxidized with sodium periodate and subsequently reduced with sodium borohydride. After destroying the excess borohydride with aqueous phosphate buffer (pH 6.5), the resulting quantitated solutions were subjected to measurement of their long-wavelength optical rotations.

A previously noted empirical trend related nucleo-sides having β-$\underline{D}$ or α-$\underline{L}$ configurations with positive rotations for their oxidized-reduced products and nucleo-sides having α-$\underline{D}$ or β-$\underline{L}$ configurations with negative rotations for their enantiomeric oxidized-reduced deriva-tives. Most nucleosides in the present study gave re-sults in harmony with this empirical prediction including adenosine$_{ox-red}$ derivatives with an additional asymmetric center. However, 6-azapyrimidine (1,2,4-triazine) and 6-azapyridine (pyridazine) nucleosides were exceptions with reversed rotations for their oxidized-reduced de-rivatives. This behavior is suggested to result from the intrinsic optical vector orientation in the chromophore rather than rotameric preferences.

C-nucleosides (pseudouridine and formycin) were methyl-ated at the acidic ring nitrogen to circumvent degradation under the oxidation-reduction conditions. Paper electro-

phoresis using a borate buffer (pH 9.3) was found to be
a useful analytical method in the present study. The
precursor nucleosides and their oxidized-reduced products
gave distinct well separated spots. The anodic migrations
of β-$\underline{D}$-pentofuranosyladenine nucleosides and adenosine$_{ox-red}$
are in the order: lyxo- $\geq$ ribo- > xylo- > ox-red > ara-
binofuranosyladenine.

Adenosine$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{43}$), tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{209}$), ino-
sine$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{135}$) and uridine$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{136}$) were isolated and
subjected to solvent and pH effect studies. In aqueous
solutions at different pH values, DMF and MeOH, rotation
magnitudes were affected but drastic changes (e.g.
reversal of the sign) were not observed. However, drastic
changes in the rotations of adenosine$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{43}$), tuber-
cidin$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{209}$) and inosine$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{135}$) were observed
in pyridine, whereas uridine$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{136}$) behaved normally.
This was attributed to the "stacking" effect with "aromatic"
purine-type bases.

Qualitative rates of the reduction of periodate by
nucleosides (determined spectrophotometrically at a perio-
date concentration of ~10^{-7} $\underline{M}$) were found to be: β-$\underline{D}$-
ribo- > α-$\underline{D}$-ribo- > β-$\underline{D}$-lyxo >> β-$\underline{D}$-arabino- $\simeq$ β-$\underline{D}$-xylo-
furanosyladenine. After 1 min, several β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl
nucleosides reduced periodate 1.2-1.6 times faster than
their corresponding α-$\underline{D}$ anomers. This difference is
presumed to result from the increased steric hindrance

of the α structure. This presents a new method for assigning the configuration of a given anomeric pair of ribofuranosyl nucleosides.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The term "nucleoside" was originally introduced by Levene and Jacobs[1] for the carbohydrate derivatives of purines (and later, of pyrimidines) isolated from the alkaline hydrolyzates of yeast nucleic acid. The phosphate esters of nucleosides are called nucleotides. "Nucleosides" now refer to carbohydrate derivatives linked to heterocycle bases, normally at C-1' of the sugar residue (anomeric center), by C-N or C-C bonds. The term includes both naturally occurring and synthetic compounds.

Since there are two possible orientations for attachment of the base at C-1' (namely, α or β as indicated for 1 or 2 in the D-ribose derivatives), the anomeric configuration determination of nucleosides has been a problem of considerable importance. This is especially true in synthetic nucleoside chemistry where coupling of an appropriate sugar and heterocycle (or its precursor) is frequently employed. Although the anomeric configura-

β at C-1'

1

α at C-1'

B = a heterocycle
or its precursor

2
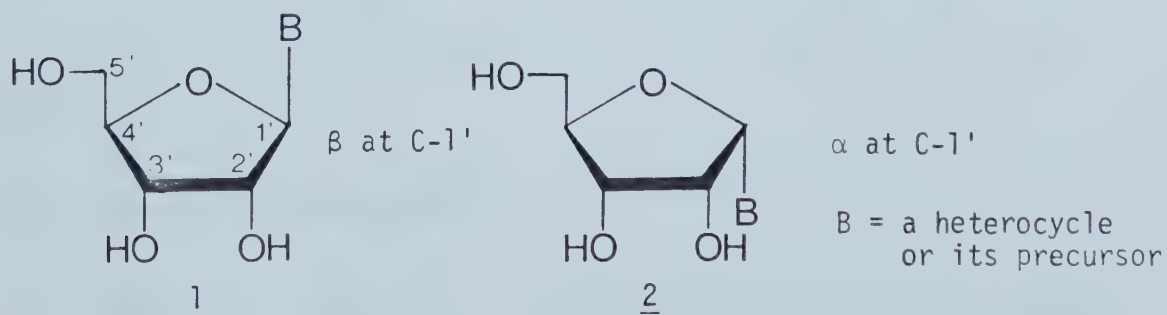
tion of nucleosides found in DNA and RNA are known to

be β, naturally occurring nucleosides having the α-
configuration are also known in vitamin B_{12} coenzymes.[2]
Thus, unknown naturally occurring as well as synthetic
nucleosides always have to be subjected to determination
of anomeric configuration.

A number of methods for determining the anomeric
configuration of nucleosides have been devised. However,
most of these, although useful in specific cases, have
limitations and/or exceptions. Thus, the combined use of
more than one technique is often required. X-ray
diffraction provided the first confirmed structural
assignments of certain nucleosides obtained from yeast
nucleic acid.[3] This method gives a rigorous and un-
ambiguous assignment of the anomeric configuration, but
requires specialized equipment and skill and is time
consuming.

Recently, approaches used for the determination of
anomeric configuration of ribofuranosyl nucleosides have
been critically reviewed.[4] In the following discussion,
various commonly employed methods and criteria will be
surveyed.

I. Baker's "trans rule"[5]

Baker's "trans rule", which states that "condensation
of a heavy metal salt of a purine or pyrimidine with an
acylated glycosyl halide will form a nucleoside with a

C-1' to C-2' trans configuration in the sugar moiety re-
gardless of the original configuration at C-1'", has pro-
vided the initial basis for assignment of the anomeric
nature of the products obtained from several coupling
methods. The reason for the trans predominance has been
attributed to the participation of the acyloxy group at
C-2' resulting in formation of an orthoester ion involving
C-1'. However, Montgomery and Hewson[6] have noted an
exception to this rule. Fox and co-workers[7,8] observed
that the "trans rule" could not be applied automatically
to anomeric assignment of the products obtained from
Hilbert-Johnson coupling reactions.

II. Chiroptical methods

1. Hudson's "isorotation rule"[9]

Hudson's "isorotation rule", which was the first
attempt to utilize optical rotation data for determining
the anomeric configuration of carbohydrates, was used
along with Baker's "trans rule" for early assignments of
the anomeric configuration of nucleosides. This empirical
rule was originally based upon presumed relations between
the anomeric configuration and optical rotations of
carbohydrates. Although it remains applicable for most
methyl glycosides,[10] it was found to fail for certain
anomeric pyrimidine nucleosides.[11,12] Later the noted

exceptions to this rule were found to be general for
most pyrimidine nucleosides.[13]

2.   ORD and CD approaches

Ulbricht and co-workers[14] measured ORD and CD spectra
of series of nucleosides and nucleotides and noted trends
correlating the anomeric configuration and sign of the
long-wavelength ("B_{2u}") Cotton effects. Purine β-$\underline{D}$-nucleo-
sides generally exhibit a negative Cotton effect and
purine α-$\underline{D}$-nucleosides a positive Cotton effect. Pyrimi-
dine nucleosides generally exhibit reversed Cotton effects
(β-$\underline{D}$, positive, and α-$\underline{D}$, negative). This so-called
ORD/CD rule was in general harmony with experiments of
Frič et al.[15] and Nishimura et al.[16] However, the sign
of the Cotton effect as well as its magnitude is depen-
dent[17,18] on intrinsic dipole vector orientations within
the heterocyclic base, glycosyl rotameric populations,
solvents, temperature, etc. Numerous exceptions to
this rule have been found.[14a,c,f,18-20] Thus, it is
noted[15,18b] that ORD and CD stereochemical assignments
should be applied to nucleosides only in those cases
where the unknown and reference nucleosides have similar
transition moment directions, electronic structures in
the sugar rings, and glycosyl rotameric populations.

III. NMR methods

1. ^{1}H-NMR approaches

a. Coupling constant approaches

It is now generally recognized[21,22] that the coupling constant between H-1' and H-2' ($J_{1'-2'}$) should be $\leq$ 1.0 Hz for unequivocal assignment of a 1',2'-trans hydrogen relationship in the case of pentofuranosyl derivatives such as β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl nucleosides (1). This criterion is based upon the Karplus equation,[23] by which the vicinal coupling constant is calculated from the dihedral angle.[24] However, $J_{1'-2'}$ > 1.0 Hz is common for 1',2'-trans hydrogen relationships because of the conformational flexibility of the furanose ring. No assignment is possible for nucleosides having the 1',2'-cis hydrogen relationship of α-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosylnucleosides (2) owing to the double-angle cosine dependence of the Karplus equation. The only exceptions to this trans $J_{1'-2'}$ < 1.0 Hz criterion have been observed[4] in the fused-ring 2',3'-anhydrolyxo-nucleosides (H-1' and H-2' cis) (3). The anomeric proton signal of (3) appears as a sharp singlet ($J_{1'-2'}$ < 0.7 Hz) as does the corresponding peak for H-1' of the 2',3'-anhydroribonucleosides (H-1' and H-2' trans) (4).
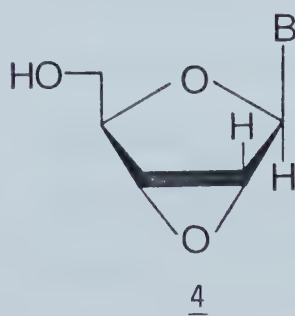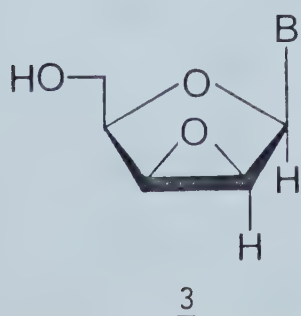
B = adenin-9-yl, 4-aminopyrrolo-[2,3-d]pyrimidin-7-yl

3   4

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requirement of this rule, as they emphasized, is that the C-1' substituent should be of sufficient bulk and rigidity to ensure that the steric interaction between the 5'-CH_2OH group and the base of the β-anomers will prevent a decrease in $\phi_{3'-4'}$. The foregoing coupling approaches are crucially dependent on the sugar conformation. Conformational rigidity is a predominant factor in their applications.

Jardetzky[27] noted that $J_{1'-2'} < 1$ Hz for adenosine 3',5'-cyclic-monophosphate (cAMP) (6, B = adenin-9-yl). However the applicability of this observation to the anomeric assignment of ribonucleosides remained unrecognized until Robins and MacCoss[4,28] proposed a "geometry-only method" for this determination based upon the coupling of the anomeric proton ($J_{1'-2'}$) of the conformationally rigid anomeric 3',5'-cyclonucleotides (6,7). The proposed criterion was $J_{1'-2'} < 1$ Hz for β-anomers (6) and $J_{1'-2'} \geq 3$ Hz for α-anomers (7). They observed no exceptions in examining over 200 examples and suggested

6   7
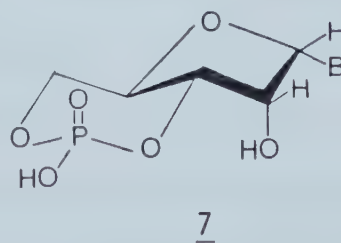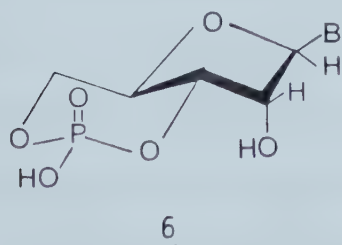
its general applicability to variously substituted ribo-3',5'-cNMP's (cyclic nucleoside monophosphates) and

β-ara-3',5'-cNMP's. Similar results have been observed[29] in our laboratory recently using the 3',5'-O-(1,1,3,3-tetraisopropylidisilox-1,3-diyl) group[30] (8) in place of the 3',5'-O-cyclic-monophosphate.

8
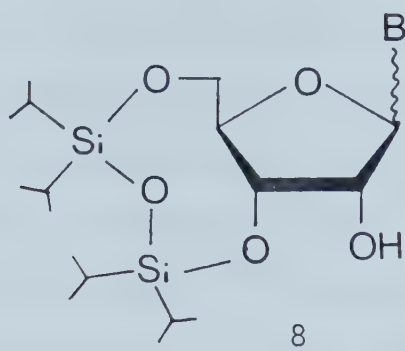
b. Chemical shift approaches

Fox and co-workers[31] reported a method based on the chemical shift difference of 2'-O-acetyl methyl signals before and after the hydrogenation of a double bond in the heterocyclic base. In pentofuranosyl nucleosides of pyrimidines, they observed a small diamagnetic (upfield) shift with 1',2'-trans and a large paramagnetic (down-field) shift with 1',2'-cis 2'-O-acetyl derivatives upon saturation of the 5,6-double bond. This approach is based upon the anisotropic effect of the heterocycle and appears to be generally applicable to pyrimidine nucleosides. However, it is not readily applicable to purine nucleosides since selective hydrogenation to give 7,8-dihydropurine nucleosides is difficult.

Montgomery[32a] reported that the 2'-O-acetyl methyl chemical shift per se could be used to determine the anomeric configuration. In a series of acetylated anomeric furanosyl purine pairs, it was observed that 2'-O-acetyl methyl signals of 1',2'-cis nucleosides occur upfield from δ 1.95 ppm while those of 1',2'-trans nucleosides occur downfield from δ 2.05 ppm. Similarly, 2'-O and 2'-S-methyl chemical shifts have been utilized for the anomeric configurational assignment of arabinofuranosyl nucleosides.[32b] However, the chemical shifts of acetyl methyl groups are solvent dependent[33] and an exception has been noted in the case of 1-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)benzotriazole.[34a]

Imbach and co-workers[34] proposed a very useful method for the configurational determination of ribofuranosyl nucleosides, which involves the chemical shift difference (Δδ) of the two methyl signals (exo and endo) of anomeric 2',3'-O-isopropylidene ribofuranosyl nucleosides (9,10). The proposed Δδ criterion,[34b] as refined further,[34a,d] is: Δδ> 0.15 ppm for the β-anomer (9) and Δδ< 0.15 ppm for the α-anomer (10). This criterion is

exo   9   endo   exo   10   endo
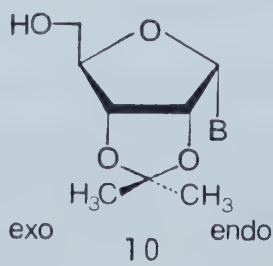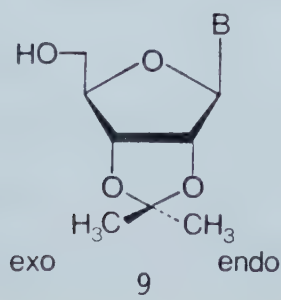
based upon the anisotropic effect of the heterocyclic "aglycon" on the chemical shift of the endo methyl group of the α-anomer. This anisotropy was demonstrated[4,34a-e] with an α-anomer of 2',3'-O-isopropylidene-5,6-dihydrouridine (10, B = 5,6-dihydrouracil-1-yl), which does not obey the rule. They have noted that the Δδ criterion should be limited to ribofuranosyl compounds having an unsaturated heterocyclic aglycon and no 5'-substituents. These limitations of the criterion are now well documented.[35-38] However, an exception to this restricted criterion has been reported for 1-(2,3-O-isopropylidene-D-ribofuranosyl)-3-carbamoyl pyridinium salts.[39]

Nishimura and Shimizu[40] noted that the anomeric proton of a 1',2'-trans (2'-OH to 1'-heterocycle) nucleoside appears at a higher field than that of the corresponding cis isomer. This chemical shift difference of the anomeric protons of α and β-nucleosides has been considered to result from the diamagnetic shielding[41] of the cis (H-1' to 2'-OH) 2'-OH group on the anomeric proton of 1',2'-trans nucleosides. This method has been used for anomeric configurational assignments and found consistent. However, it has been reported[37b] that the anomeric proton shifts of isopropylidene derivatives of anomeric mannofuranosylimidazole and mannofuranosyl-adenines are not in accordance with this rule. Thus,

caution must be exercised with 2'-OH protected nucleo-
sides when this rule is applied. Furthermore, it is not
applicable where only one anomer is available since this
method requires both anomers for comparison.

Alenin and Domkin[42] recently proposed a new criterion
for establishing the anomeric configuration of furanosyl
derivatives of purines, pyrimidines, imidazoles and
pyrazoles (11). They observed that when the heterocycle
at C-1' is trans to the 2'-hydroxy group the chemical
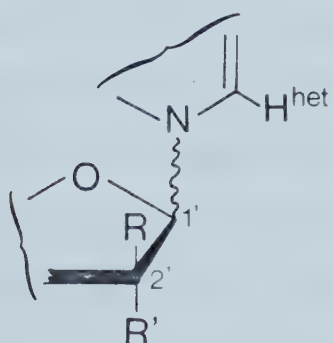
H^{het}; H^8 (purines), H^6 (pyrimidines)
H^2 (imidazoles), H^5 (pyrazoles)

R = H, R' = OH in ribo-, xylo- and
glucofuranosyl nucleosides

R = OH, R' = H in arabinofurano-
syl nucleosides

11

shift of the heterocycle proton (H^{het}) appears at lower
field than that of H^{het} in a cis orientation. They com-
bined the chemical shift of H^{het} with that of the anomeric
proton for their proposed criterion which states that:
the chemical shift difference between H^{het} and H-1 ($\Delta\delta =$
$\delta H^{het} - \delta H-1'$) is always greater when the heterocycle and
2'-hydroxy group have a trans orientation. This rela-
tion appears to be valid for unprotected nucleosides and
their isopropylidene derivatives but not for nucleosides

with acetyl, benzoyl and benzyl protecting groups on the sugar hydroxyls. A similar chemical shift difference of the heterocycle protons has been noted previously with the anomeric C-nucleosides of pseudocytidine.[43] This criterion is not confirmed with a large number of examples and it is not applicable to H^{het} substituted nucleosides. Again, both anomers are required.

    c. <u>Nuclear Overhauser effect (NOE) approach</u>

Cushley et al.[44] reported the NOE method for determining the anomeric configuration of purine and pyrimidine nucleosides. They observed signal enhancements of the aglycon protons upon irradiation of H-4' of α-nucleosides, but no enhancement upon irradiation of H-5'. Irradiation of H-5' of β-nucleosides produced enhancements of the aglycon protons while irradiation of H-4' had no effect. However, NOE is dependent on rotameric populations and sugar ring conformations. Overlapping shifts of the sugar protons and coupling between these protons also complicate NOE measurements.

    d. <u>Relaxation time (T_1) approach</u>

Hall and Preston[45] measured the relaxation times (T_1) of the anomeric protons of pyranosyl carbohydrates and observed a difference in the relaxation times (T_1) between α and β-anomers. The applicability of this

method to nucleosides has been demonstrated by Tran-Dinh et al.[46] They observed that the relaxation times (T_1) of the anomeric protons of the β-anomers of some anomeric C-nucleosides are about two and a half times longer than those of the α-anomers. However, this method requires more sophisticated techniques and calculations and is time consuming. It has not been reported with naturally occurring N-glycosyl nucleoside examples.

2. ^{13}C-NMR approaches

In 1974, Shimizu et al.[47] reported ^{13}C-NMR spectra of anomeric pyrimidine and purine ribonucleosides. They observed that the C-1' and C-2' chemical shifts of α-anomers appeared at higher fields (2~4 ppm) than those of the β-anomers. Similar chemical shift differences of the anomeric carbon (C-1') have been observed with anomeric 2',3'-O-isopropylidene ribofuranosyl C-nucleo-sides,[38] methyl glycosides[48] (anomeric ribo, arabino, xylo and lyxofuranosides), 2',3'-O-isopropylidene ribofurano-syl purine nucleosides[36] and arabinofuranosylcytosine.[32b] In all of the above cases, the anomeric carbon (C-1') of the nucleosides and glycosides having a cis relation-ship between the aglycon and 2'-substituent resonate at a higher field than that of the corresponding 1',2'-trans compounds.

The existence of correlations between chemical shifts

of the isopropylidene methyl groups of 2',3'-O-isopropyli-
dene-D-ribofuranosyl derivatives and the anomeric con-
figuration,[38,49] and of the central (or quaternary) iso-
propylidene carbon and the anomeric configuration[49a] have
also been reported. At present, the reliability and
generality of these observation in the determination of
anomeric configuration has not been fully established and
further investigation is needed.

IV. Enzymatic methods

Enzymes such as bacterial nucleoside hydrolase,[50]
pyrimidine nucleoside phosphorylase[8] and calf intestine
deaminase[51] have been used to distinguish certain α and
β-nucleosides. However, the general applicability is
limited to the substrate specificity of the enzymes.

V.   Chemical methods

1. Cyclonucleoside approach

Todd and co-workers[52] discovered a method to assign
the glycosyl configuration unequivocally by the formation
of cyclonucleosides linking the 5'-position of the sugar
residue and the heterocyclic base, such as 14[52a] and
15.[52d] Such cyclization is possible only for 1',4'-
cis (β-D or β-L) nucleosides (Scheme I). This formation
of cyclonucleosides further established[52b,c] the anomeric
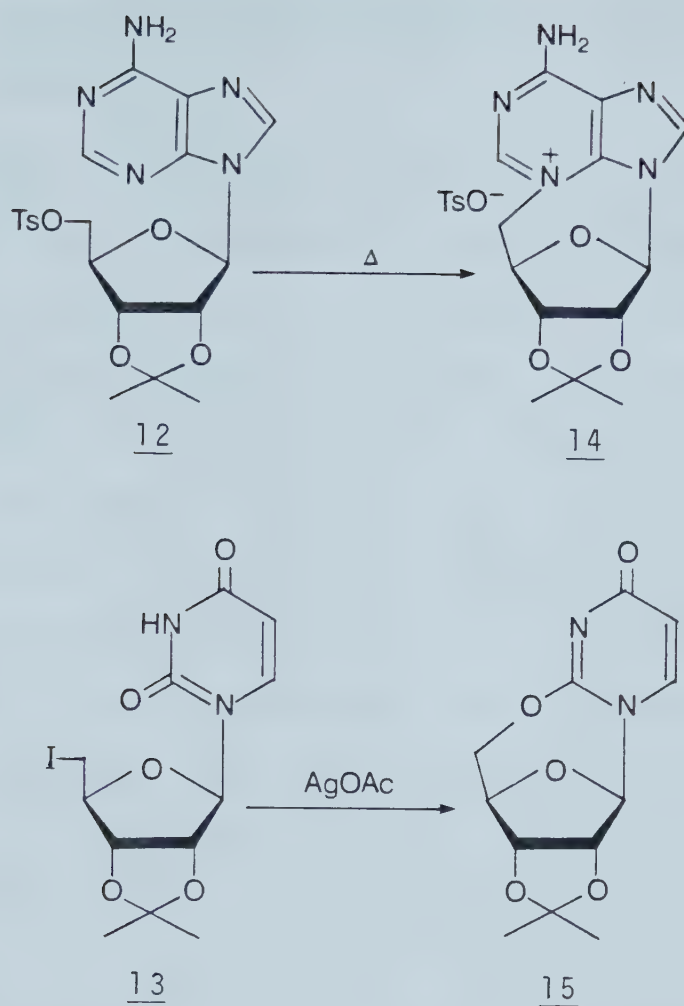
Scheme I

configuration of thymidine, 2'-deoxycytidine and 2'-deoxyadenosine as β. However, synthetic nucleosides without the requisite functionality for the formation of cyclonucleosides, such as 3-deazaadenosine (16),[53] are precluded from evaluation by this method.
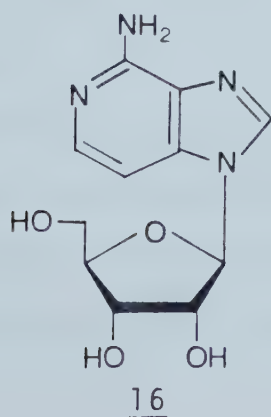
2. Degradation approaches combined with optical rotations

Periodate (or periodic acid) oxidation, which Malaprade[54] was the first to introduce for selective oxidation of vic-glycols, is a widely used reaction[55] in the field of carbohydrate chemistry for structural studies.[56-59] This oxidation, in combination with enzymatic and chemical reactions, has also been used as a tool for sequence analysis of ribonucleic acid (RNA) and polynucleotides.[60-62] Early work on configurational assignments in the carbohydrate field was based on the optical rotations of the oxidation product (the di-aldehyde).[63] Applications of this oxidation approach in nucleoside chemistry were used to establish the furanose structure of the sugar residue of naturally occurring ribonucleosides and later their anomeric nature.[64-67] The first indicative configurational assignment of nucleo-sides was carried out by Todd and co-workers[65] using periodate oxidation. They obtained the same dialdehydes (18) for a given pair of synthetic (17) and naturally occurring (1) nucleosides upon oxidation (Scheme II). Since the synthetic glucopyranosyl nucleosides (17) had been considered to have the β-configuration by their method of preparation, they assigned the anomeric con-figuration of 1 as β. Later the unambiguous confirmation

HO

B

OH

HO

OH

IO_4^-

HO

O

B

HC CH

O O

IO_4^-

HO

O

B

HO OH

17   18   1
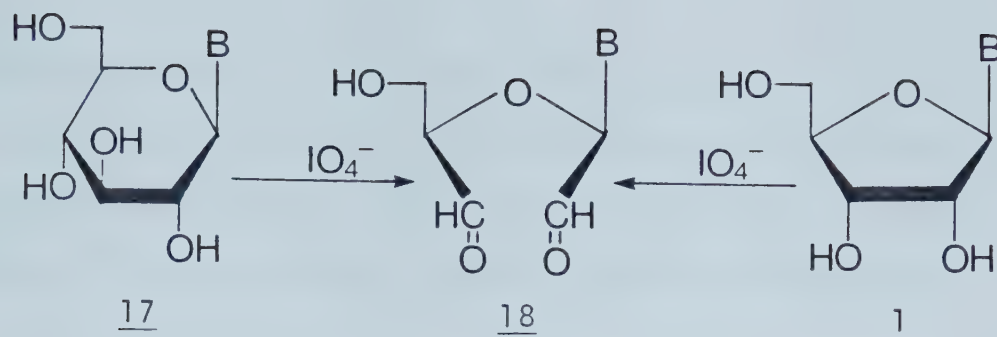
B = adenin-9-yl, uracil-1-yl cytosin-1-yl

Scheme II

of the β-configuration was demonstrated by the formation

of cyclonucleosides[52] and by X-ray diffraction.[3] Similar

use of optical rotational measurements on the periodate

oxidation products (dialdehydes) derived from reference

and unknown nucleosides has been made to establish the

anomeric nature of other nucleosides[8,40,67-73] and C-

glycosides[74] and to determine their anomeric purity.[75]

However, there remains some uncertainty in the anomeric

configurational assignment based on the optical rotations

of these aldehydes. These compounds, such as 18 and 19,

contain two asymmetric centers and can exist as diaster-

eomers. Identical rotations have been reported[76] for

HO

O

B

HC CH

O O

HO

O

HC CH

O O

B

18   19
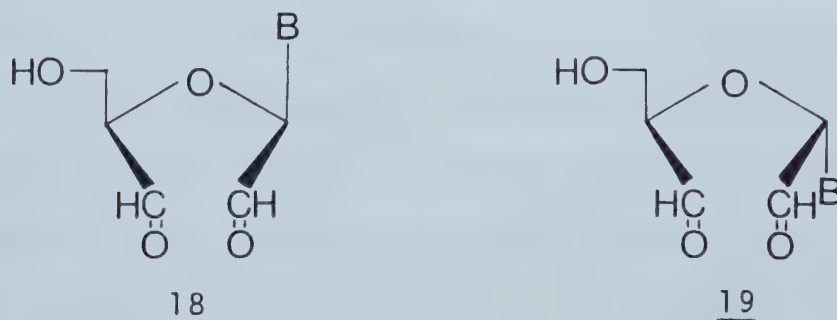
the dialdehydes (22,23) obtained in situ by periodate
oxidation of 9-(6-deoxy-α-L-mannopyranosyl)adenine (20)
and 9-(6-deoxy-β-L-glucopyranosyl)adenine (21), even
though the dialdehydes 22 and 23 are diastereomers
(Scheme III).
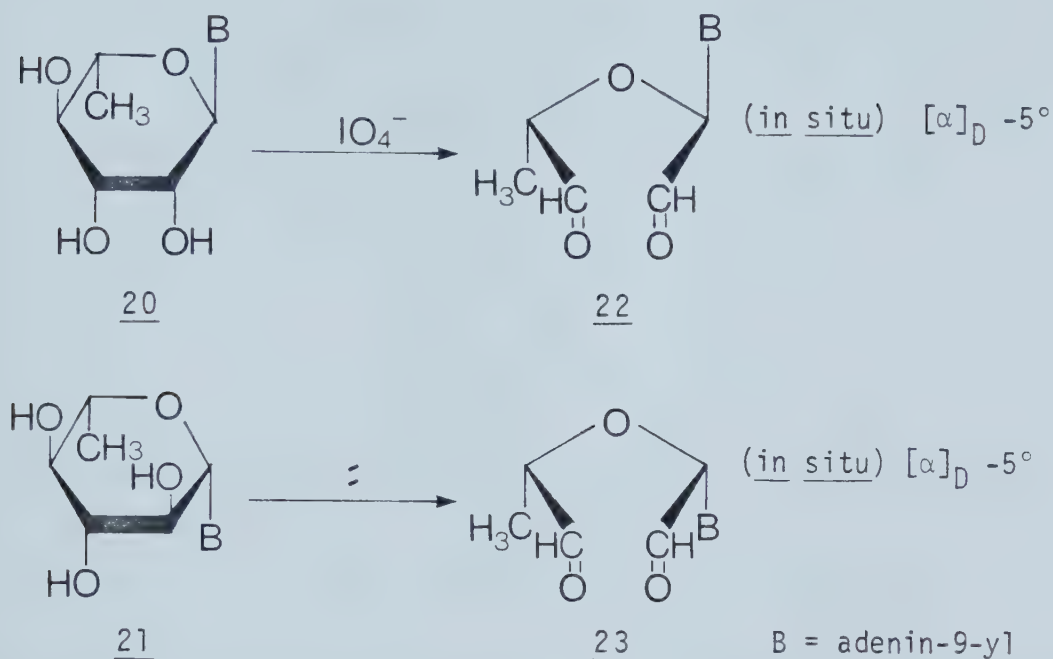
Scheme III

The dialdehydes from common naturally occurring
ribonucleosides have been isolated and character-
ized[65,66,77-79] usually as derivatives. It is well es-
tablished[59,78,79] that dialdehyde such as 18 exists in
solution as hydrated species, internal hemiacetals, and
hemialdals (24-26). Only a small fraction of these
compounds exist as the free aldehydes (Scheme IV). In
the solid state, the "dialdehydes" were suggested[78c] to
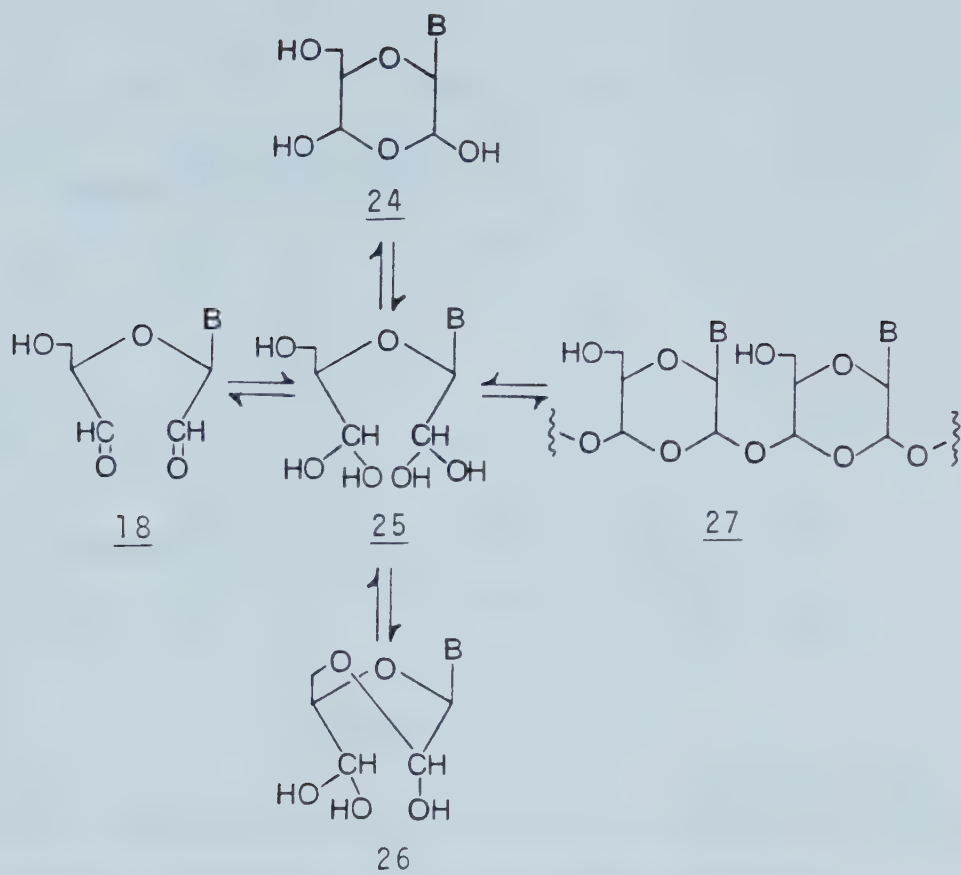
Scheme IV

be completely polymerized (27). The internal hemiacetal
(26) and hemialdal (24) forms create additional asymmetric
centers. Therefore, cases in which the optical rotations
of periodate oxidation products provide sufficient in-
formation to allow unequivocal assignment of the anomeric
configuration are rare.

Reduction[77] of these oxidation products with hydrogen
and Raney nickel or borohydride normally gives the corres-
ponding tri-alcohols such as 28 and 29 (Scheme V). Partial
reduction of the aldehyde function distal to the aglycon
has been noted under controlled conditions.[77,80b] This
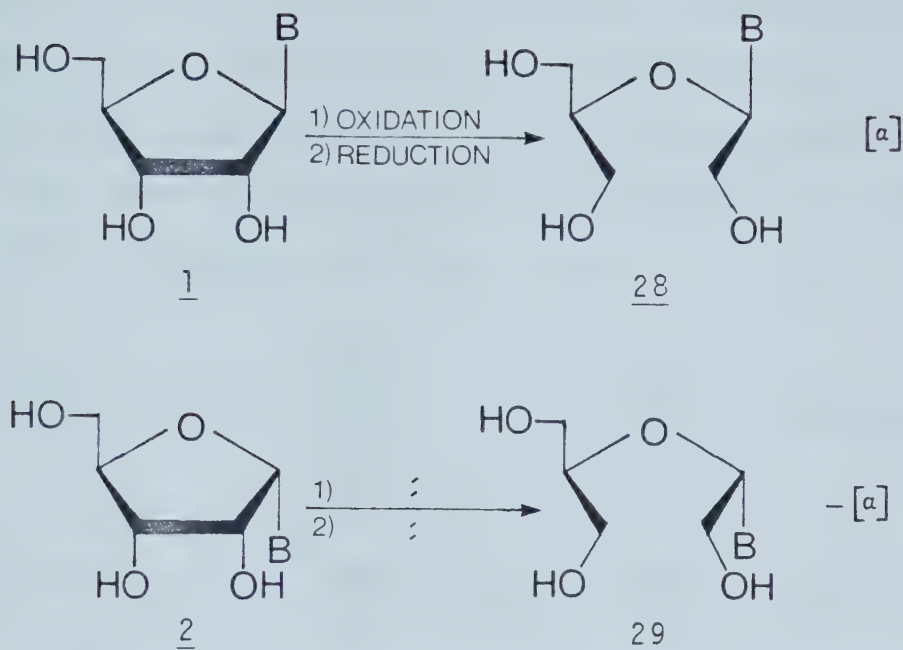
Scheme V

is a superior method for correlating the anomeric config-
uration of the precursor nucleoside since the only
asymmetric center remaining in the reduced compound (28 or
29) is the original anomeric carbon. The triols (28,
29) are now enantiomeric and give equal but opposite
rotations so that the anomeric natures of the original
nucleosides (1,2) are clearly revealed.

Smith et al.,[80] who extended the work of Hudson,[63]
and other workers[81] demonstrated the configurational
correlation of methyl glycosides in both the D and L-
series based on the rotations of oxidized and reduced
products (28,29, B = OMe). This method for determining
the anomeric configuration requires a reference compound
of known anomeric configuration. However, a principal

advantage is its applicability to a large number of com-
pounds (some of which are shown in Scheme VI).   Not only
the anomeric configuration but also D and L-series can
be correlated and determined[80,81] from rotation measure-
ments on precursor and triol series.

β-D-pentofuranosyl 30

α-L-pentofuranosyl 33

β-D-hexpyranosyl 31

28

α-L-hexopyranosyl 34

β-D,α-L
β-L,α-D } hexofuranosyl 32

β-L,α-D
β-D,α-L } hexofuranosyl 35

α-D-pentofuranosyl 36

β-L-pentofuranosyl 39

α-D-hexopyranosyl 37

29

β-L-hexofuranosyl 40

α-D,β-L
α-L,β-D } hexofuranosyl 38

α-L,β-D
α-D,β-L } hexofuranosyl 41
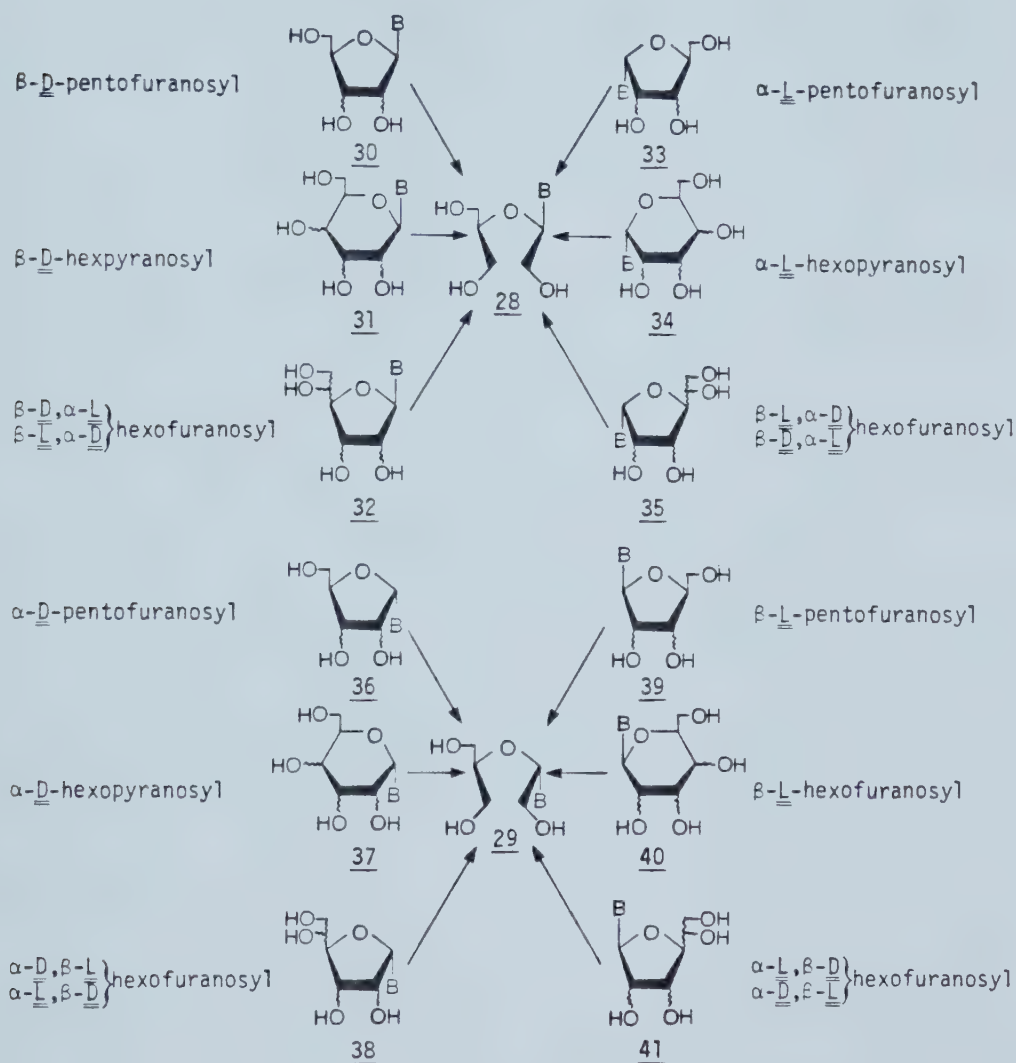
Scheme VI

In 1958 Khorana and co-workers[50] introduced the fore-
going method to nucleosides in their synthesis of α-adeno-

sine. Since then, a number of examples has appeared. A trend in the optical rotations of oxidized and reduced nucleosides (nucleosides$_{ox-red}$) has been observed relative to the anomeric configuration of the starting nucleosides (see next section). In the usual procedure a nucleoside$_{ox-red}$ is prepared _in situ_ by the periodate oxidation and subsequent reduction of the nucleoside in question. The optical rotation of the resulting quantitated solution is then measured. When this method is used, caution must be exercised to avoid over-oxidation, and nucleosides that are labile to the degradation conditions also have been reported.[82-89]

The various methods described above should be evaluated carefully and exceptions and limitations considered before they are employed to determine the anomeric configuration of nucleosides. In this thesis, the latter degradation method (oxidation and reduction) for nucleosides, which had not been studied systematically, will be investigated.
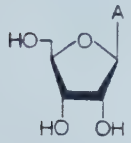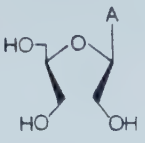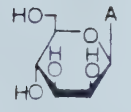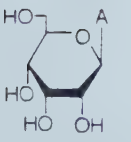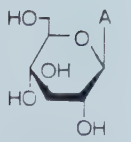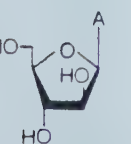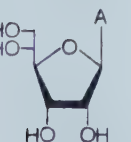
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Since Khorana et al.[50] first employed the furanose
degradative procedure (oxidation of the glycol with
periodate and reduction of the derived dialdehyde with
borohydride) for configurational assignment of α-adeno-
sine, a number of examples has appeared. This method
has been used for confirming the anomeric relation of
nucleoside pairs as well as for direct anomeric configura-
tional assignment. Examples are summarized in Table I
for in situ prepared nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ and isolated
"fraudulent" (sugar-modified) nucleosides$_{ox-red}$. Table
II contains data for the isolated nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ of
"natural" triol types (28 or 29).

Lerner had observed[96,97] that nucleosides having a
β-D or α-L configuration gave ox-red alcohols with positive
optical rotations, and nucleosides having an α-D or β-L
configuration gave ox-red alcohols with negative optical
rotations. On this basis, assignment of the anomeric
configuration of adenine nucleosides such as 70 and 82 in
Table I (which presumably give the corresponding nucleo-
sides$_{ox-red}$ 71 and 83, respectively, with more than one
asymmetric center) has been proposed.[96,97] It can be seen
from Table I and Table II that Lerner's empirical approach
agrees with the examples reported with one exception. The
enantiomeric diols (96 and 98) gave opposite relations to
those expected. However, optical rotations of the

23

TABLE I

Optical Rotations of Previously Reported _in situ_
Prepared and Isolated Nucleosides$_{ox-red}$

Precursor nucleosides	Oxidized-reduced [b] products (nucleosides$_{ox-red}$)	$[\alpha]_D$ [c]	References
42 [a]	**43**	+61-68	37,50,90,91
44	**43**	+57	92
45	**43**	+58	92
46	**43**	+57	92
47	**43**	+66	90
48	**43**	+70	37

TABLE I (continued)

Structure	Ref.	Rotation	Yield
49	43	+53	93
50 → **51**		−66	50
52	51	−58	92
53	51	−59	92
54	51	−57	92
55	51	−64	37
56	51	−65.0	91
57 → **58**		+55 (isolated)	94

TABLE I (continued)

59	60	-71	95
61	62	+74	76,95
		+80.6 (isolated)	94
63	64	-46	76
		-54 (isolated)	94
65	64	-50	76
66	67	+34.5 (isolated)	94
68	69	-36.5 (isolated)	94
70	71	+37	96
72	73	-64	96
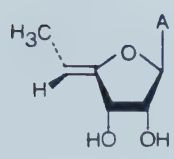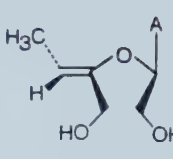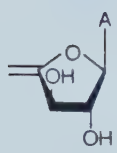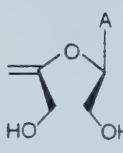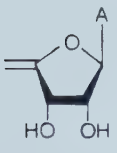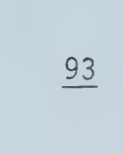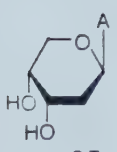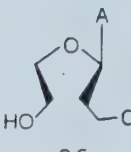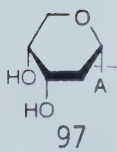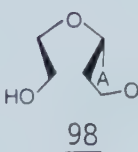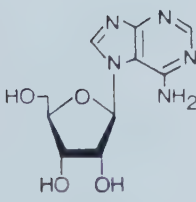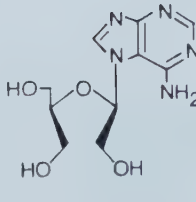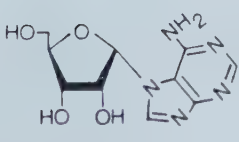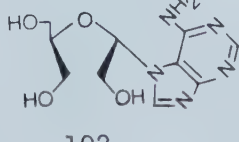
TABLE I (continued)

74	**75**	-69	96
76	**77**	+65	96
78	**79**	+72	97
80	**81**	-48	97
82	**83**	-62	97
84	**85**	+37	98
86	**87**	-60	98
88	**89**	+18	35
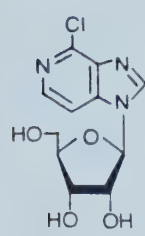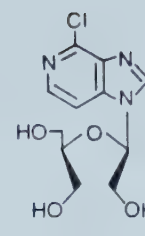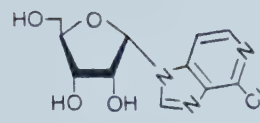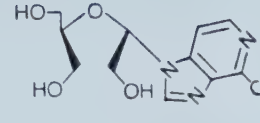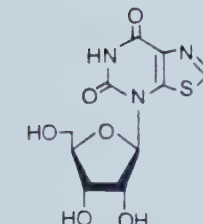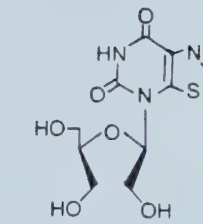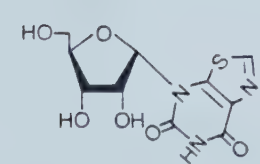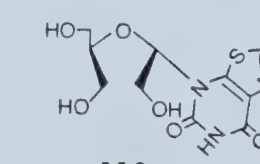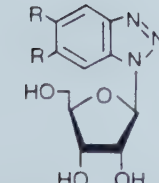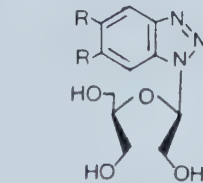
TABLE I (continued)

90	91	+18	35
92	93	+59	99
94	93	+55	99
95	96	-10.8	100
97	98	+10.2	100
99	100	+118.1±0.2	101
101	102	-117.9±0.2	101
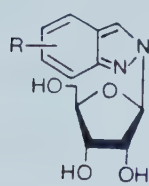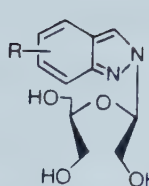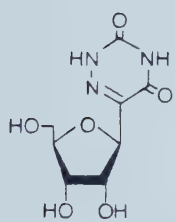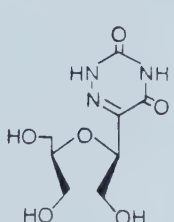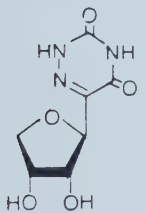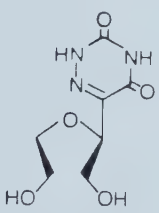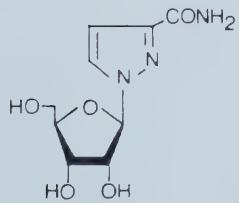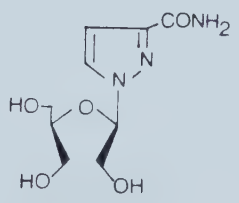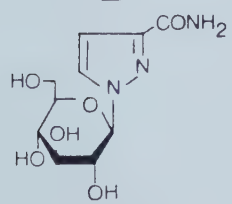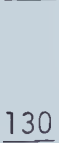
TABLE I (continued)

103	104	+72.0 53
105	106	−71.9 53
107	108	+73.5 102
109	110	−75.0 102

111 R=CH$_3$ 114 R=CH$_3$ +65.1
112 R=Cl   115 R=Cl   +67.2
113 R=H   116 R=H   +60.7

103

TABLE I (continued)

			104
117 R=6-NO$_2$	121 R=6-NO$_2$	+14.9	
118 R=5-NO$_2$	122 R=5-NO$_2$	+ 7.6	
119 R=H	123 R=H	+15.2	
120 R=3-CN	124 R=3-CN	+51.3	

125   126   +46.8   105

127   128   +39.2   106

129   130   +36.1[d)   107

131   130   +31.8[d)   107
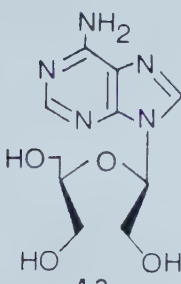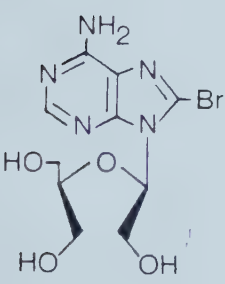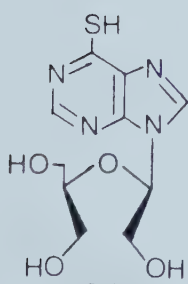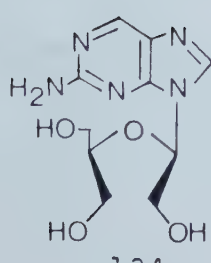
Table 1 (continued)

a) A = adenin-9-yl. b) Structures, if not reported were

presumed. c) Rotation values are of <u>in</u> <u>situ</u> prepared

nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ unless noted otherwise. Consult the

original article for detailed measurement conditions

(i.e. temperature etc.). d) The reported $[M]_D$'s were

converted to $[\alpha]_D$'s.
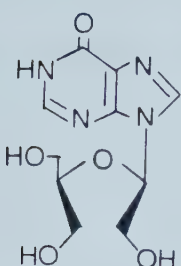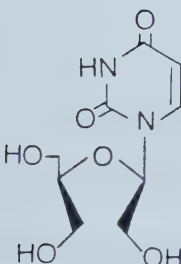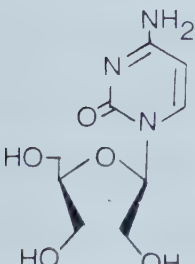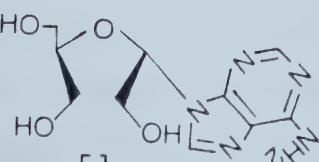
TABLE II

Optical Rotations of Previously Reported
Isolated Triols (<u>28</u>, <u>29</u>)

Compounds	$[\alpha]_D$ [a]	Reference
  <u>43</u>	+58.9	108
  <u>132</u>	+38	109
  <u>133</u>	+73	109
  <u>134</u>	+34	109

Table II (continued)

135	+70.2	109
136	+49±1	108
137	+62±1	108
51	-62.6	94

a) Specific rotation values in H_2O. Consult the original article for detailed conditions (i.e. temperature etc.).

"natural" triols (28 and 29), which can be derived from anomeric pentofuranosyl, hexopyranosyl and hexofuranosyl nucleosides, are in accord with expectations.
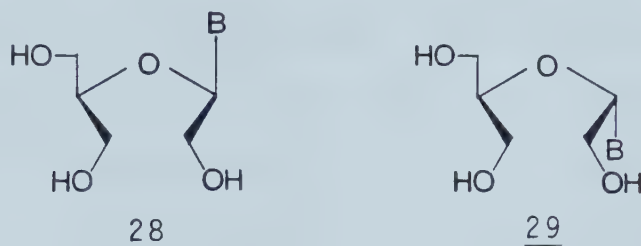
Despite the well-known use of such triols,[50] this empirical approach has not been investigated systematically. Therefore, we have studied optical rotation relation- ships of various types of derived triols prepared in situ from pentofuranosyl nucleosides. We have observed that they exhibit a predictable electrophoresis behavior under defined complexing conditions. We have measured optical rotation values for a series of adenosine$_{ox-red}$ derivatives to evaluate substituent effects. The varia- tion in optical rotations of some isolated nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ with pH, and some significant solvent effects have been determined. The rates of periodate reduction with some anomeric pairs of D-ribofuranosyl nucleosides, and with some pentofuranosyl adenine and cytosine nucleosides having a sugar configuration other than ribofuranose have been evaluated qualitatively.

A NOTE ON THE DEFINITION OF α AND β CONFIGURATIONS

In 1909 Hudson[9] suggested that the more dextrorotatory anomer in the D-series be designated α and the more levorotatory β. In the L-series the more levorotatory would be designated α and the more dextrorotatory β. Freudenberg[11a] suggested in 1932 that α and β anomers be classified with regard to their configuration rather than the sign and value of their optical rotations. His designation correlated monosaccharides with the same configuration at the anomeric carbon atom (C-1 for aldose) and the highest numbered asymmetric carbon (C-4 for pentoses) as α. Thus, structures (138 and 139), depicted in the Fischer and Haworth projection formulas, represent α-D-ribofuranose and β-D-ribofuranose, respectively. Their mirror images are α-L and β-L-ribofuranose.

138   139
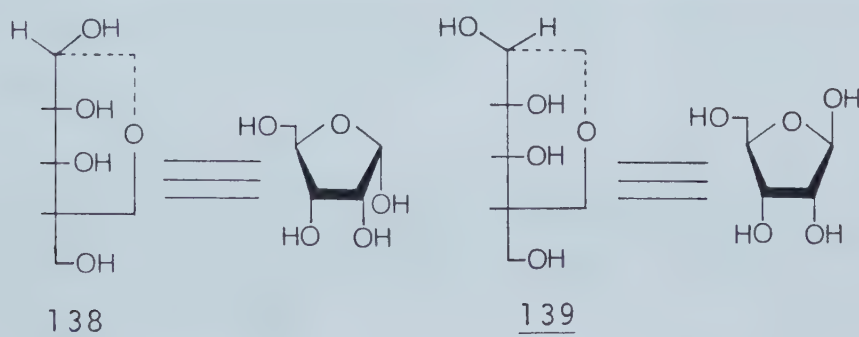
In the majority of cases, both the Hudson and Freudenberg conventions concur. However, examples[11,12] are known of α-D compounds that are less dextrorotatory than their

anomers. Hence, Freudenberg conventions are now univer-
sally applied to glycosidic and glycosyl compounds. The
pairs of such compounds which differ in configuration at
the hemiacetal carbon atom (C-1 for aldoses) were termed
"anomers" by Riiber.[111b]

A NOTE ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF OXIDIZED-REDUCED NUCLEOSIDES
(NUCLEOSIDES$_{OX-RED}$) OF TRIOL TYPES (28 AND 29)

There are several ways of naming nucleosides$_{ox-red}$
(28 and 29).[108-110] For instance oxidized-reduced adeno-
sine (43) has been named as 1-O-(1,3-dihydroxy-2-propyl)-
1-(adenin-9-yl)-1(R),2-ethanediol, as 2-O-[1(R)-(9-adeninyl)-
2-hydroxyethyl]glycerol and as 2-(R)-(adenin-9-yl)-4-
hydroxymethyl-3-oxapentan-1,5-diol. For the sake of clarity
in this thesis, oxidized-reduced nucleoside will be in-
formally termed as nucleoside$_{ox-red}$ such as adenosine$_{ox-red}$
for 43. When prepared in situ, nucleoside$_{ox-red}$ (in situ)
will be used.

OPTICAL ROTATIONS OF NUCLEOSIDES$_{OX-RED}$ (in situ); AND
ELECTROPHORESIS OF NUCLEOSIDES$_{OX-RED}$ (in situ) AND THEIR
PRECURSOR NUCLEOSIDES

6-Azauridine (182), 6-azacytidine (183), 3-methyl-6-
azauridine (184), 3-methyl-6-azauridine$_{ox-red}$ (185), 6-
methyl-2-β-D-ribofuranosyl-3-pyridazone (188), 2-β-D-
ribofuranosyl-3-pyridazone (189), 6-methyluridine (173),
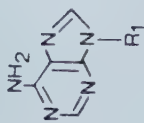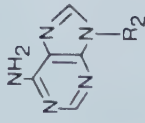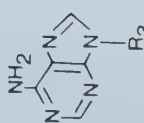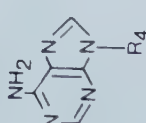
6-methylcytidine (178), 3-β-D-ribofuranosyl-6-methyluracil

(171), 1,3-bis(β-D-ribofuranosyl)-6-methyluracil (172),

1,3-dimethylpseudouridine (190), 1-methylformycin (155),

2-methylformycin (156), 2-methylformycin$_{ox-red}$ (157),

5,6-dihydrouridine (187), α-L-uridine (163), β-L-uridine

(164) and α-L-cytidine (180) were prepared by reported

methods or by the general synthetic procedures developed

for the present study (see Experimental Section).

Fifty four pentofuranosyl nucleosides and methyl β-D-

ribofuranoside were oxidized with periodate and subse-

quently reduced with sodium borohydride. Excess sodium

borohydride was destroyed with 1 M sodium dihydrogen

phosphate buffer (pH 6.5). (Liberation of iodine was

observed in several cases when 10% acetic acid was used to

destroy the borohydride.) The reduction products were

assumed to be the triols 28 or 29, depending upon the

precursor nucleosides (see Scheme VI). This appears to

be justified based on the quantitative nature of the re-

actions and the comparison of electrophoretic mobilities

of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) with those of the corres-

ponding precursor nucleosides.

Optical rotations of all nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ)

and some isolated nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ were recorded at

the wavelength of the sodium D line (589 nm). ORD curves

(300~600 nm) and/or optical rotations at wavelengths other

than 589 nm (578, 546, 436 and 365 nm bands of mercury)
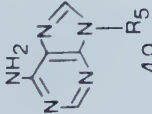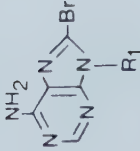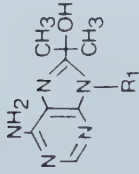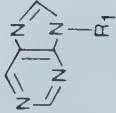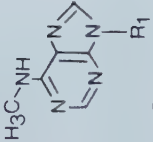
TABLE III

Optical Rotations of Nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ), and Electrophoresis of Nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) and Their Precursor Nucleosides Determined in the Present Study

Precursor Nucleosides	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$	Anodic migration of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) [a]	Anodic migration of precursor nucleosides [a]
42	plain positive curve [b]				+65.6	0.38	0.62
50	-203.8	-130.6	-77.0	-67.9	-65.2	0.38	0.62
140	+199.0	+128.2	+75.7	+67.2	+63.9	0.38	0.67
47	+177.0	+114.2	+67.4	+59.4	+56.8[c]	0.38	0.12
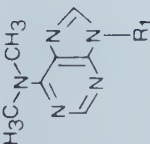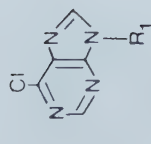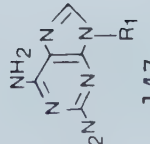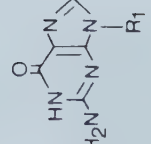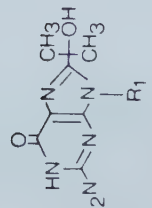
Table III (continued)

Compound							
49	+182.4	+116.6	+68.3	+59.7	+57.7[c])	0.38	0.60
141	positive Cotton effect curve [b])				+33.9	0.36	0.59
142	[d]) _____				+70.0	0.40	0.60
143	[d]) _____				+57.8	0.39	0.78
144	plain positive curve [b])				+60.4	0.52	0.81

Table III (continued)

Compound							
145 $H_3C-N-CH_3$ ring, $N-R_1$	plain positive curve [b)]				+62.9	0.49	0.78
146 Cl ring, $N-R_1$	+190.3	+121.3	+73.3	+65.0	+61.5	0.57	0.88
147 NH_2 ring, $N-R_1$	+99.3	+75.8	+48.0	+43.0	+41.4	0.29	0.48
148 O, HN, H_2N ring, $N-R_1$	positive Cotton curve [b)]				+40.4	0.64	0.83
149 O, HN, H_2N, $CH_3-C-OH-CH_3$ ring, $N-R_1$	+468.9	+278.9	+155.9	+137.5	+131.3	0.53	0.74
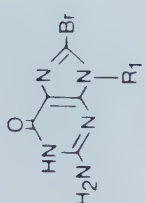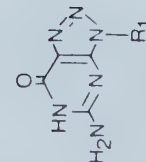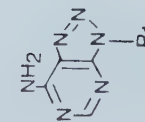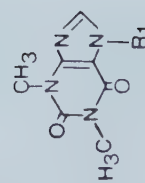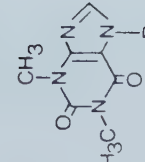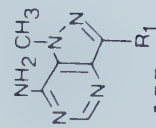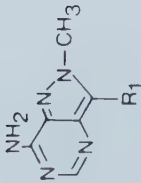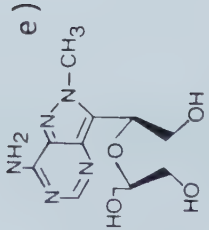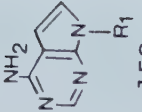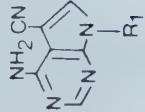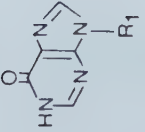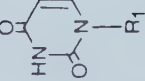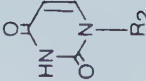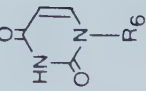
Table III (continued)

150					+61.6	0.80	0.90
	plain positive curve b)						
151	+3.8	+14.6	+13.4	+11.5	+9.6	0.82	1.10
152	+87.2	+55.7	+30.4	+26.7	+21.0	0.45	0.74
153	+273.5	+154.4	+86.8	+76.5	+73.5	0.46	0.83
154	-269.4	-152.1	-87.6	-76.7	-72.7	0.47	0.84

Table III (continued)

Compound							
155	+173.5	+111.0	+64.1	+56.4	+54.0	0.38	0.64
156	+115.5	+98.0	+62.0	+55.2	+53.0	0.45	0.67
157	+130.0	+107.4	+67.6	+59.8	+56.8	0.45	——
158					+32.3	0.41	0.52

Structures:

155: NH$_2$, CH$_3$ on ring, N–N, R$_1$

156: NH$_2$, N–CH$_3$, R$_1$

157: e) NH$_2$, N–CH$_3$, sugar (HO, HO, OH)

158: NH$_2$, N, R$_1$

b) positive Cotton effect curve, cross over at 302 nm
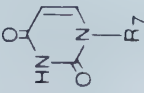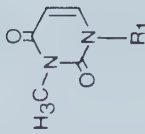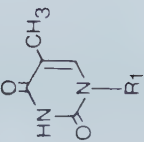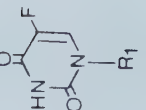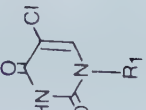
Table III (continued)

Structure							
159	positive Cotton effect curve [b]				+61.0	0.31	0.57
160	plain positive curve [b]				+70.3	0.81	1.07
161	positive Cotton effect curve [b]				+50.5	0.71	1.00
162	negative Cotton effect curve [b]				-51.4	0.71	1.00
163	+114.2	+87.0	+56.8	+50.3	+49.1	0.71	1.00

Table III (continued)

Structure							
164 (R$_7$)	-117.6	-89.0	-58.2	-52.8	-46.2	0.71	1.00
165 (R$_1$)	+132.4	+94.0	+59.1	+52.2	+49.7	0.55	0.92
166 (R$_1$)	positive Cotton effect curve b)				+55.8	0.50	0.87
167 (R$_1$)	+169.5	+107.7	+63.6	+55.2	+51.3	0.98	1.23
168 (R$_1$)	+239.5	+158.2	+96.4	+84.8	+80.4	0.91	1.15

Table III (continued)
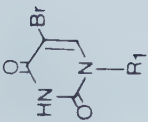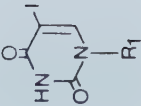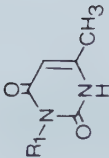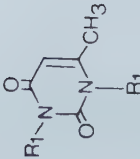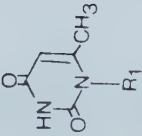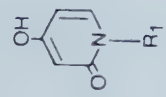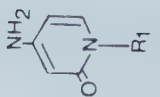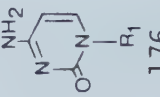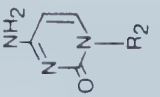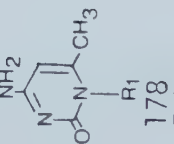
169	+196.5	+126.4	+76.9	+68.1	+64.3	0.95	1.10
170	+250.6	+158.2	+90.6	+80.6	+74.8	0.86	1.15
171	+16.3	+23.8	+18.5	+16.8	+16.3	0.49	0.90
172	+102.5	+70.6	+43.5	+39.0	+35.9	0.63	1.15
173	+205.9	+125.3	+72.1	+63.3	+60.8	0.63	0.93

Table III (continued)

Compound				
174 (OH pyridinone, R₁)	positive Cotton effect curve, [b] cross over at 306 nm	+53.7	0.89	1.12
175 (NH₂ pyridinone, R₁)	positive Cotton effect curve, [b] cross over at 306 nm	+56.7	0.56	0.79
176 (NH₂ pyrimidinone, R₁)	positive Cotton effect curve [b]	+62.2	0.54	0.88
177 (NH₂ pyrimidinone, R₂)	negative Cotton effect curve [b]	−61.7	0.54	0.88
		+174.2 +107.2 +62.7 +55.4		
178 (NH₂ CH₃ pyrimidinone, R₁)		+53.0	0.50	0.83

Table III (continued)
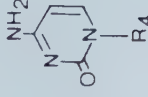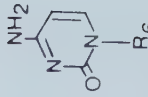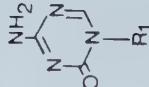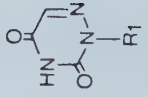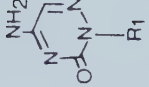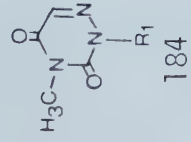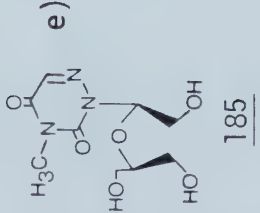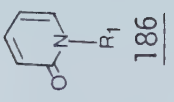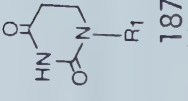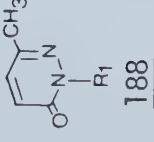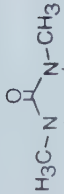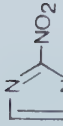
	f)						
179	+157.0	+113.1	+71.1	+63.6	+60.4	0.53	0.17
180	+151.1	+109.3	+68.3	+61.0	+58.0	0.53	0.87
181	+74.5	+42.1	+25.8	+22.3	+19.9	0.45	0.82
182	-148.7	-69.9	-30.7	-25.9	-25.7	1.00	1.40
183	-226.7	-92.3	-38.5	-31.9	-30.1	0.41	0.82

Table III (continued)

184	-131.9	-58.8	-26.1	-22.0	-20.6	0.48	0.93
185 e)	-162.3	-73.4	-33.6	-27.8	-26.4	0.48	——
186	positive Cotton effect curve, b) cross over at 355 nm					0.51	0.90
187	+167.9	+109.4	+65.4	+58.2	+55.1	0.45	0.88
188	-419.3	-145.3	-53.8	-43.6	-40.6	0.43	0.90

Table III (continued)

Structure							
189	-568.3	-225.3	-95.3	-80.9	-74.3	0.51	0.88
190	+317.7	+194.3	+111.9	+98.4	+93.8	0.63	0.94
191	plain positive curve b)				+12.5		—
192	— g)	+39.1	+105.1	+96.6	+93.4	0.46	0.84

R_1 = β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl; R_2 = α-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl; R_3 = β-$\underline{D}$-lyxofuranosyl; R_4 = β-$\underline{D}$-arabinofuranosyl;

R_5 = β-$\underline{D}$-xylofuranosyl; R_6 = α-$\underline{L}$-ribofuranosyl; R_7 = β-$\underline{L}$-ribofuranosyl.

Table III (continued)

a) Migrations were measured relative to that of uridine (1.00) as reference (absolute anodic migration of uridine ~12 cm). Values are from single determinations. b) Measured between wavelengths of 300 to 600 nm. c) These oxidations were allowed to proceed for 4 days. The lower rotation values observed possibly resulted from partial decomposition. d) Not measured owing to scarcity of samples. e) Isolated nucleoside$_{ox-red}$. f) HCl salt was used. g) No rotation value was obtained due to the strong absorption of light at this wavelength.

were also obtained for isolated nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ and
most nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (<u>in</u> <u>situ</u>). Electrophoretic mobil-
ities of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ and precursor nucleosides were
recorded. The results are summarized in Table III. All
measured nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (<u>in</u> <u>situ</u>) and isolated$_{ox-red}$
gave plain positive or negative curves, or single positive
or negative Cotton effects between 365 and 589 nm.

Lerner's results would predict that the triols <u>28</u>
should give positive and triols <u>29</u> negative rotations at
589 nm. Our results for most of the nucleosides$_{ox-red}$
follow this trend. Thus, the anomeric pairs of nucleosides
(<u>42</u> and <u>50</u>, <u>153</u> and <u>154</u>, <u>161</u> and <u>162</u>, <u>163</u> and <u>164</u>, <u>176</u>
and <u>177</u>) in the <u>D</u> and/or <u>L</u>-series give positive rotations
for β-<u>D</u> and α-<u>L</u>-nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (<u>28</u>) and negative
rotations for α-<u>D</u> and β-<u>L</u>-nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (<u>29</u>). The
results of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (<u>in</u> <u>situ</u>) derived from <u>141</u>-
<u>150</u>, <u>165</u>-<u>170</u>, <u>173</u>, <u>178</u> and <u>187</u>, indicate that substituent
effects and a minor change of the aglycon do not alter the
sign of the rotation although the magnitudes are affected.

Purine nucleosides and their analogs appear to follow
the trend. This is also the case for most of the pyrimi-
dine nucleosides and their analogs and also for azomycin
β-<u>D</u>-riboside (<u>192</u>) and methyl β-<u>D</u>-ribofuranoside (<u>191</u>).
However, exceptions were found with the 6-azapyrimidine
(1,2,4-triazene) and pyridazine nucleosides$_{ox-red}$. The
ox-red products from 6-azauridine (<u>182</u>), 6-azacytidine

(183), 3-methyl-6-azauridine (184), 6-methyl-2-β-$\underline{D}$-ribo-
furanosyl-3-pyridazone (188) and 2-β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl-3-
pyridazone (189) gave negative $[\alpha]_D$ values and plain
negative curves between 365 and 589 nm, although these
compounds were derived from β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl nucleosides.
This reversed trend was also reported with simple ox-red
N-acetylglycosylamines[112] (28 and 29, B = N-acetylamino),
whereas the methyl glycosides[80,81] (28 and 29, B = OMe)
behaved normally.

Initially a commercial sample of 6-azauridine was used
for our study. However, the observation of a reversed
sign for 6-azauridine$_{ox-red}$ led us to synthesize several
6-azapyrimidine and pyridazine nucleosides (182-184, 188
and 189). These compounds were reported to have CD and
ORD spectra with reversed Cotton effects relative to
their pyrimidine and pyridine counterparts.[14a-c,f,18e,113]
The same structural relationship exists between pyrimi-
dine and 6-azapyrimidine nucleosides as between pyridine
and pyridazine nucleosides. Likewise, the rotations
observed for the ox-red pyrimidine and pyridine nucleo-
sides (161, 176, 165 and 186) were positive whereas those
from their aza analogs (182, 183, 184 and 189, respec-
tively) were negative. Isolated 3-methyl-6-azauridine$_{ox-red}$
(185) showed a parallel negative rotational pattern with
the in situ result. This corroborated the structure of
3-methyl-6-azauridine$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) as the triol and
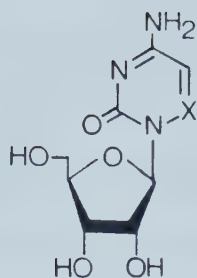
176; X = CH   161; X = CH, R = H   186; X = CH, R = H
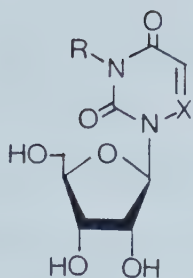
183; X = N   165; X = CH, R = CH_3 188; X = N, R = CH_3

182; X = N, R = H   189; X = N, R = H

184; X = N, R = CH_3
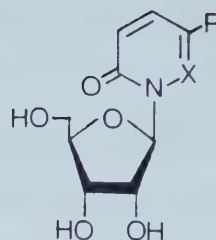
confirmed its negative rotation. Thus, the empirical trend clearly is not followed by 6-azapyrimidine and pyridazine nucleosides.

The common structural feature of the 6-azapyrimidine and pyridazine nucleosides (182-184, 188 and 189) consists of a six membered ring aglycon in which a second ring nitrogen atom and a carbonyl group are bonded to the ring nitrogen bearing the glycosyl moiety (193). The reversed sign of the Cotton effect of 6-azapyrimidine nucleosides was rationalized[18e] by suggesting a preferred conformation of the base. This was presumed to result from the interaction of the lone electron pair on N-6 and the lone pair on the ether oxygen of the ribose ring. If this were valid for the open-chain nucleosides$_{ox-red}$, it might also explain the abnormal
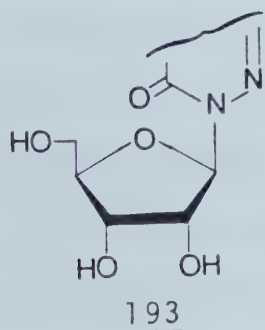
behavior of 6-azapyrimidine and pyridazine nucleo-
sides$_{ox-red}$.[114]

However, 5-β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl-6-azauridine ($\underline{125}$, Table
I), which has an adjacent carbonyl function and a nitrogen
atom at the same ring position relative to the atom
bearing the ribosyl moiety as 6-azapyrimidine nucleosides,
has been reported to give the ox-red product (presumably
$\underline{126}$) with a positive rotation.[105] Furthermore, a much
greater conformational flexibility around the glycosyl
bond of a nucleoside$_{ox-red}$ would be expected. This is
supported by the "normal" positive optical rotations of
nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{in}$ $\underline{situ}$) derived from 6-methyluridine
($\underline{173}$), 6-methylcytidine ($\underline{178}$), 3-β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranosyl-6-methyl-
uracil ($\underline{171}$), and 8-(α-hydroxyisopropyl)guanosine ($\underline{149}$).
In contrast, the latter intact nucleosides represent excep-
tions from the ORD/CD rule (see the Introduction) and give
a reversed Cotton effect relative to their unsubstituted
pyrimidine and purine analogs.[14c,18b,f,e] These reversed
Cotton effects have been attributed to preferred base
conformations (restricted ranges of the torsion angles,
ϕ_{CN}[115]) resulting from coulombic repulsion between base
carbonyl and the intact-ring oxygens of $\underline{171}$,[18e] steric
effects of the bulky substituent at the 6-position of $\underline{173}$
and $\underline{178}$[18b] and at the 8-position of $\underline{142}$ and $\underline{149}$.[18f,116]
After oxidation and reduction, their open-chain nucleoside
analogs gave the usual positive $[\alpha]_D$ values and/or plain

positive curves or positive Cotton effects between 365
and 589 nm. This would imply the existence of increased
rotational flexibility around the glycosyl bond of the
nucleosides$_{ox-red}$.

In contrast to these results, 6-azapyrimidine and
pyridazine nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ retain the abnormal (reversed
sign) optical rotation behavior of their precursor nucleo-
sides. This suggests that the reversed rotation behavior
of 6-azapyrimidine and pyridazine nucleosides arises
mainly from the chromophoric effects (intrinsic optical
vector orientation in the chromophore) rather than
rotational preferences[18e] about the glycosyl bond.
Similarly, the reversed chiroptical behavior of 6-aza-
pyrimidine and pyridazine nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ may be
attributed to the same phenomenon.

Our results with ox-red products provide additional
support for the glycosyl conformational preference
rationale for the reversed ORD and CD Cotton effects of
the precursor 6-substituted pyrimidine nucleosides (173,
178), 8-substituted purine nucleosides (142, 149) and 3-
β-D-ribofuranosyl-6-methyluracil (171). The combined
observations suggest that the long wavelength rotation
behavior of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ may be useful for the
study of nucleoside glycosyl rotameric conformational
preferences. Comparison of the CD and ORD spectral prop-
erties of the precursor nucleosides and the rotations of

the ox-red products with enhanced glycosyl bond flexi-
bility will provide an additional parameter to evaluate
steric conformational vs. intrinsic optical vector effects
with the base chromophore.

Pseudouridine (5-β-D-ribofuranosyluracil) (194) was
known to be labile under the periodate oxidation and
borohydride reduction conditions.[88]
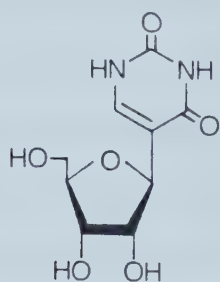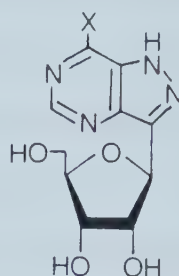
194   195; X = NH_2
                       196; X = OH

An elimination mechanism has been proposed by Chambers.[117]
Formycin (195) and formycin B (196) have been reported
to give 3-formylpyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidine derivatives
upon prolonged oxidation with periodate.[89] A similar over-
oxidation has been reported for a benzimidazole C-nucleo-
side derivative.[84] Thus, it appears that C-nucleosides
can not be subjected directly to the present procedure
of periodate oxidation and borohydride reduction. However,
this procedure was employed with formycin at the 3'-
terminal of a tRNA during a study of the specificity of
aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases.[118] The negative results

observed in the aminoacylation with the 3'-terminal
modified tRNA (formycin$_{ox-red}$ at 3'-terminal) now would
appear to result from degradation of the terminal formy-
cin and not necessarily to the reported specificity effects
of the supposed triol product.

In order to circumvent the degradation of these
labile C-nucleoside intermediates by the reaction condi-
tions, methylation of the acidic NH functions on the
bases was examined. Treatment of pseudouridine (194) with
N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal gave 1,3-dimethyl-
pseudouridine (190) which was subjected to the usual
periodate oxidation and borohydride reduction conditions.
The resulting 1,3-dimethylpseudouridine$_{ox-red}$ (in situ)
gave positive rotation values and a single anodic migrating
spot upon electrophoresis. The anodic mobilities of 0.63
for 1,3-dimethylpseudouridine$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) and 0.94
for its precursor 1,3-dimethylpseudouridine indicate that
the product is the expected triol (28, B = 1,3-dimethyl-
uracil-5-yl). After oxidation and reduction, synthetic
1-methylformycin (155) and 2-methylformycin (156) gave
ox-red products with positive rotations and homogeneous
electrophoretic spots corresponding to triol species.
The stability of these N-methyl nucleosides toward the
reaction conditions was further substantiated by the
isolation of 2-methylformycin$_{ox-red}$ (157). The electro-
phoretic mobilities and optical rotations of the isolated

and in situ prepared 2-methylformycin$_{ox-red}$ were identical. The stability of the N-methylated formycins (156, 157) and $\underline{N}^1,\underline{N}^3$-dimethylated pseudouridine (190) suggests that the NH group is the key factor in the labilities of pseudouridine and formycin oxidation intermediates. The rotations of these methylated nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ agree with the usual β (positive) trend.

In most reported cases, no attempt was made to isolate or characterize the ox-red products from nucleosides except for measurement of the optical rotation. The structures of most nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) have been presumed on the basis of the quantitative nature of the reactions. Paper electrophoresis was found to be a very useful tool. Electrophoretic examination of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ and their intact precursors using a borate buffer at pH 9.3 revealed well separated spots for the two classes and consistent trends were observed in their anodic migrations.

Nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ migrated faster than arabinofuranosyl nucleosides, but slower than other pentofuranosyl nucleosides (xylo-, lyxo- and ribofuranosyl compounds). The following order of anodic migrations is based on adenine derivatives that were available in the complete set of β-$\underline{D}$-pentofuranosyl derivatives. (Scheme VII). This order of migration can be attributed to the ease of formation of ionic, cyclic borate complexes with the
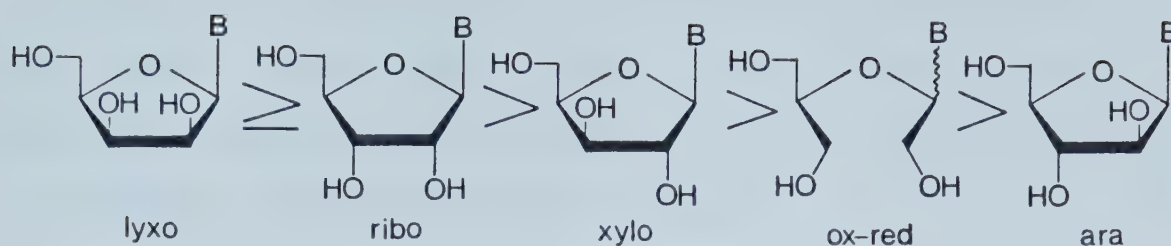
B = adenin-9-yl

Scheme VII

hydroxyl groups.[119] Differences in the electrophoretic
migration of anomeric pairs under our conditions was not
observed, although the anomeric pair of pseudouridines
was reported to separate using a borate buffer at pH
9.6.[120] The electrophoresis of methyl β-$\underline{D}$-ribofurano-
side$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) was not determined but its structure
(as $\underline{28}$, B = OMe) was supported by the correspondence
of the reported value of $[\alpha]_D$ +12~15°.[81]

In summary, the previously known trend of β(+) and
α(-) rotation signs for nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ is in accord
with most of the nucleosides presently studied. However,
6-azapyrimidine and pyridazine nucleosides are exceptions.
This reversed behavior probably results from the in-
trinsic optical properties of the aglycons. The results
suggest that enhanced flexibility exists about the
glycosyl bond of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$. This information
can be used in conjunction with ORD/CD studies on the
precursor nucleosides for conformational studies of the
latter. Formycin and pseudouridine are labile to the
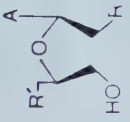
reaction conditions, but their N-methylated derivatives are stable. Paper electrophoresis with a borate buffer at pH 9.3 appears to be reliably useful for qualitative characterization of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$.

OPTICAL ROTATIONS OF ADENOSINE$_{OX-RED}$ DERIVATIVES

Lerner[96,97] has employed the empirical trend in the signs of optical rotations of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ for assigning the anomeric configuration of adenine nucleosides such as 70 and 82 in Table I. Such compounds give ox-red products with three chiral centers. We have determined the optical rotations of a series of modified adenosine$_{ox-red}$[121] derivatives that were available in our laboratory. The results are tabulated in Table IV. It can be seen that these modified adenosine$_{ox-red}$ products (58, 197-208) have positive rotations in agreement with the "normal" β enantiomeric ox-red products. The rationalization for application of the empirical trend to such nucleosides (70, 82)[96,97] is based upon the observation that chiral centers other than the anomeric center do not appear to contribute significantly to the rotation. This is in harmony with ORD and CD studies of pentofuranosyl nucleosides which have shown that the anomeric center is the major contributor to the optical activities.[14,16,18e,20] The configurations of other centers normally are of minor consequence.

TABLE IV

Optical Rotations of a Series of Modified Adenosine$_{ox-red}$ Derivatives from our Laboratory[121]

Compound	R	R'	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$	Concentration and solvent a)
197	OH	TsO	+149.0	+87.0	+49.0	+42.8	+40.4	c 0.53, 20% MeOH
198	TsO	OH	+35.9	+35.6	+25.4	+23.2	+22.2	c 0.39, 20% MeOH
58	OH	H	+188.7	+120.1	+71.1	+59.1	+50.3	c 0.16, H_2O
199	H	OH	+149.8	+98.9	+58.9	+52.1	+49.8	c 0.52, H_2O
200	OH	Cl	+209.6	+132.2	+76.3	+67.4	+64.5	c 0.58, H_2O
201	Cl	OH	+188.4	+124.1	+73.9	+65.5	+62.5	c 0.54, H_2O
202	OH	NH$_2$	+275.3	+176.8	+104.7	+92.2	+88.5	c 0.49, H_2O
203	NH$_2$	OH	+176.3	+116.8	+69.7	+61.7	+58.5	c 0.47, H_2O
204	OH	N$_3$	+37.4	+27.4	+17.5	+15.5	+15.0	c 0.52, H_2O
205	N$_3$	OH	+256.6	+161.4	+94.4	+83.4	+78.9	c 0.36, H_2O
206	I	OH	+99.4	+75.5	+48.3	+44.7	+41.5	c 0.36, H_2O

Table IV (continued)

207	OH	OPO_3H_2	+111.1	+68.3	+42.3	+34.5	+33.4	c 0.28, H_2O
208	Br	OH	+146.8	+100.0	+60.8	+54.0	+51.8	c 0.25, H_2O

a) All optical rotations were measured at room temperature (23~24°C).

However, a comparison of the optical rotation magnitudes of certain isomer pairs (197 and 198; 204 and 205) undoubtedly reveals the marked influence of the substituent groups. Thus, the contribution from chiral centers other than the anomeric center to the composite optical rotation may be significant in certain cases. Therefore, application of the empirical trend to nucleosides that give ox-red products with more than one chiral center cannot be assumed to provide a secure assignment of the configuration at C-1'. This is especially critical in cases of a small composite rotation magnitude or with structures that have polarizable substituents on chiral centers.

pH AND SOLVENT EFFECTS ON THE OPTICAL ROTATIONS OF ADENOSINE$_{OX-RED}$ (43), TUBERCIDIN$_{OX-RED}$ (209), INOSINE$_{OX-RED}$ (135) AND URIDINE$_{OX-RED}$ (136)

It is well known[122] that solvent modification can effect the chiroptical properties of a compound. Factors to be considered include solute-solvent interactions, dipole-dipole influences, hydrogen bonding, conformational equilibria changes, effects on ionization, etc. Solvent effects have been reported[18b] to cause sign reversals of CD Cotton effects with certain nucleosides. Therefore, the influence of changes in pH and solvents on the optical rotations of two acidic and two basic ionizable nucleo-

sides$_{ox-red}$ were examined.

Adenosine$_{ox-red}$ (43), tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ (209), inosine$_{ox-red}$ (135) and uridine$_{ox-red}$ (136) were synthesized and characterized. The proton NMR spectra of these nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ had characteristic triplets for the "anomeric" proton signals (J = 6 Hz) due to splitting by the "2'-CH$_2$OH" group. Solvents examined were MeOH, H$_2$O,
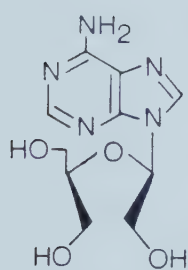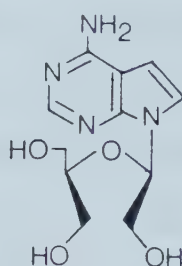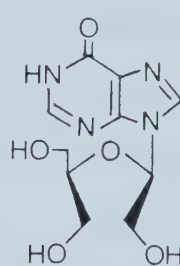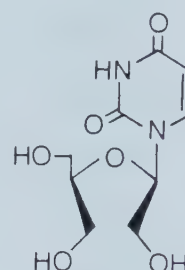
| 43 | 209 | 135 | 136 |

DMF and pyridine. Aqueous (~0.1 M) solutions were measured at pH 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13. Inosine$_{ox-red}$ was not examined in MeOH because of its insolubility. The rotations were determined at 365, 436, 546, 578 and 589 nm. The results are presented in Tables V, VI, VII and VIII.

In the aqueous solutions, adenosine$_{ox-red}$ (43), tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ (209) and inosine$_{ox-red}$ (135) showed a significant decrease in the rotation magnitude with increased pH. In contrast, uridine$_{ox-red}$ (136) had a slight increase in magnitude with increased pH, although the rotations at higher wavelengths remained relatively unchanged. All of these nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ had plain positive

TABLE V

pH and Solvent Effects on the Optical Rotations
of Adenosine$_{ox-red}$ (43)

A. pH effect[a),b)]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
pH 1	+266.1	+166.8	+97.1	+85.7	+82.0
2	+236.7	+150.8	+88.4	+77.8	+74.6
5	+221.4	+141.7	+83.0	+73.1	+70.1
7	+226.3	+144.3	+85.2	+75.0	+71.6
9	+217.6	+138.6	+81.4	+71.6	+66.7
11	+213.4	+137.2	+80.4	+71.0	+67.7
13	+161.6	+106.5	+85.7	+55.5	+53.2

B. Solvent effect[a),b)]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
MeOH	+228.3	+146.2	+85.6	+75.3	+71.5
H_2O	+226.7	+145.0	+84.9	+74.6	+71.1
pyridine	+55.7	+55.2	+38.4	+34.7	+33.2
DMF	+175.3	+117.2	+70.7	+62.5	+59.9

a) Concentration; 11.16 mg/2 ml. b) Each value obtained is an average of two determinations.

TABLE VI

pH and Solvent Effects on the Optical Rotations
of Tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ ($\underline{209}$)

A. pH effect[a),b)]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
pH 1	+144.2	+95.6	+57.2	+50.9	+48.4
3	+101.8	+69.8	+42.6	+37.8	+36.0
5	+100.1	+69.0	+44.6	+37.1	+36.0
7	+86.1	+60.5	+37.3	+33.3	+31.9
9	+85.0	+59.0	+37.0	+32.9	+31.3
11	+83.8	+59.1	+36.4	+32.4	+31.2
13	+51.3	+41.0	+26.9	+24.0	+23.1

B. Solvent effect[a),b)]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
MeOH	+90.9	+64.4	+40.3	+35.7	+34.2
H_2O	+85.8	+59.8	+37.0	+32.9	+31.9
pyridine	-85.3	-17.5	+0.4	+2.0	+2.3
DMF	+57.9	+51.2	+34.3	+31.0	+29.7

a) Concentration; 13.05 mg/2 ml. b) Each value obtained

is an average of two determinations.

TABLE VII

pH and Solvent Effects on the Optical Rotations
of Inosine$_{ox-red}$ (135)

A. pH effect[a],[b]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
pH 1	+275.3	+174.0	+101.6	+89.6	+85.9
3	+221.5	+140.5	+82.3	+72.1	+69.5
5	+224.3	+142.5	+83.6	+73.4	+70.4
7	+224.1	+142.3	+83.2	+73.3	+70.0
9	+218.2	+138.9	+81.6	+71.6	+68.8
11	+197.5	+127.3	+75.2	+66.1	+63.4
13	+154.8	+102.3	+61.1	+54.0	+51.6

B. Solvent effect[a],[b]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
H_2O	+223.9	+142.3	+83.5	+73.6	+70.5
pyridine	+16.7	+31.3	+25.2	+22.6	+22.4
DMF	+196.7	+127.8	+75.5	+66.8	+64.0

a) Concentration; 10-14 mg/2 ml. b) Each value obtained
is an average of two determinations.

TABLE VIII

pH and Solvent Effects on the Optical Rotations

of Uridine$_{ox-red}$ (<u>136</u>)

A. <u>pH effect</u>[a),b)]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
pH 1	+112.0	+86.5	+56.4	+50.6	+48.8
3	+113.9	+88.0	+57.4	+51.3	+49.2
5	+114.9	+88.7	+58.1	+52.1	+50.1
7	+110.6	+85.3	+55.7	+50.1	+47.8
9	+115.2	+88.4	+57.5	+51.5	+49.5
11	+124.8	+89.9	+57.2	+51.1	+48.8
13	+138.1	+92.7	+57.3	+49.0	+48.6

B. <u>Solvent effect</u>[a),b)]

	$[\alpha]_{365}$	$[\alpha]_{436}$	$[\alpha]_{546}$	$[\alpha]_{578}$	$[\alpha]_{589}$
MeOH	+153.3	+110.9	+69.7	+62.1	+59.3
H_2O	+117.3	+91.0	+59.3	+53.1	+51.2
pyridine	+211.3	+126.5	+73.2	+64.7	+62.0
DMF	+221.8	+139.2	+82.2	+72.7	+69.9

a) Concentration; 11.21 mg/2 ml. b) Each value obtained

is an average of two determinations.

curves between 365 and 589 nm. This suggests that ionization of the chromophoric bases does not drastically affect the long wavelength chiroptical properties of these nucleosides$_{ox-red}$. Thus, these longer wavelength optical rotations are less sensitive to ionization of the chromophore than the ultraviolet-CD measurements, an experimentally useful fact.

In the protic solvents H_2O and MeOH, and the aprotic solvent DMF, these four nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ showed plain positive rotation curves analogous to those obtained in aqueous solutions. This indicates that the hydrogen bonding and dipole-dipole interactions between solvents and nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ exert a minor effect on their rotations at long wavelength (365~589 nm). In pyridine, however, drastic changes in the rotation values were observed with adenosine$_{ox-red}$ (43), inosine$_{ox-red}$ (135) and tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ (209). Tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ in this solvent exhibited a cross over in the sign of rotation between 436 and 546 nm. Uridine$_{ox-red}$ (136) was not affected drastically. It is obvious that pyridine is not functioning merely as a base since parallel changes were not observed at increasing pH values. The normal behavior of uridine$_{ox-red}$ (136) in pyridine suggests that this effect does not result from interactions between solvent and the acyclic side chains. The strong interaction with the purine-type compounds is in harmony with

the known base-stacking[20] (i.e. π-π complex formation with pyridine) effects relative to the weak interactions noted with pyrimidines. Thus, caution must be exercised if chiroptical studies of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ are attempted using pyridine or other aromatic "stacking" solvents.

RATES OF PERIODATE REDUCTION BY NUCLEOSIDES

The rate of consumption of periodate by anomeric pairs of D-ribofuranosyl nucleosides (42 and 50; 176 and 177; 161 and 162; 153 and 154), lyxo-A (140), and pento-furanosyl nucleosides having a 2',3'-trans glycol unit (47, 49, and 179) were examined spectrophotometrically by the method of Dixon and Lipkin.[123] The results are summarized in Table IX. Nucleosides having a 2',3'-cis glycol structure were oxidized completely in ~20 min. Nucleosides having a 2',3'-trans diol configuration were oxidized much more slowly. This is consistent with the general rule that cis-diols are more rapidly oxidized than trans-diols.[124] Under the conditions used in this study for preparation of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ), ara-A (47), xylo-A (49) and ara-C (179) were oxidized completely in ~4 days (monitored by electrophoresis). However, the concentrations employed in the spectrophotometric assay are much lower resulting in a longer oxidation time owing to the dilution effect. An alternative procedure employing higher concentrations of periodate was noted for compound

TABLE IX

Rates of Periodate Reduction by Nucleosides[e]

Nucleosides		Nucleoside[a] added (mole x 10^7)	Periodate added (mole x 10^7)	Wavelength[b] (nm)	1 min[c]	1.5 min	2.5 min	5.5 min	10.5 min	15.5 min
adenosine	(42)	0.929	2.468	227	0.859	0.926	0.959	0.968	0.968	0.968
α-adenosine	(50)	0.985	2.468	227	0.696	0.823	0.944	1.025	1.034	1.036
lyxo-A	(140)	1.198	2.468	227	0.614	0.785	0.951	1.032	1.032	1.032
cytidine	(176)	0.985	2.468	227	0.774	0.892	0.986	1.025	1.026	1.026
α-cytidine	(177)	0.611	2.468	227	0.544	0.667	0.845	1.009	1.036	1.037
uridine	(161)	0.970	2.468	230	0.899	1.000	1.055	1.069	1.071	1.071
α-uridine	(162)	1.134	2.468	230	0.572	0.717	0.866	0.972	0.984	0.985
7-β-D-ribofuranosyl-theophylline	(153)	1.015	2.468	230	0.981	1.041	1.054	1.055	1.056	1.056
7-α-D-ribofuranosyl-theophylline	(154)	0.915	2.468	230	0.631	0.794	0.943	1.024	1.027	1.027
ara-A	(47)	9.142	15.896	227	~60% of the periodate per nucleoside was reduced in 9 days					
xylo-A	(49)	7.318	15.896	227	~45% of the periodate per nucleoside was reduced in 9 days					
ara-C	(179)[d]	3.677	15.896	227	~55% of the periodate per nucleoside was reduced in 6 days					

TABLE IX (continued)

a) The concentrations of nucleosides in H_2O were determined using the following extinc-
tion coefficients; adenosine and its anomer (ϵ 15,100 at 259 nm), lyxo-A (ϵ 14,900 at
259 nm),[125] cytidine (ϵ 9,100 at 270 nm), α-cytidine (ϵ 9,100 at 271 nm), uridine (ϵ
10,300 at 262 nm), α-uridine (ϵ 10,050 at 264 nm),[126] 7-β-D-ribofuranosyltheophylline
(ϵ 8,700 at 272 nm),[127] 7-α-D-ribofuranosyltheophylline (ϵ 8,700 at 274 nm), ara-A
(ϵ 13,400 at 259 nm), xylo-A (ϵ 15,100 at 258 nm),[128] ara-C·HCl salt (ϵ 9,900 at 273
nm). b) Wavelength at which the decrease in absorbance was followed. c) Each value
is an average of three determinations, except two for α-uridine (162). Deviations
from the mean values were <±10%. Values are of moles of periodate reduced per mole of
nucleoside. d) HCl salt was used. e) Measurements were performed at room temperature
(24±2°C).

that are oxidized at inconveniently slow rates.[123]

Comparison of the spectrophotometric rates of perio-
date reduction clearly demonstrates the possibility of
assignment of anomeric configuration of ribofuranosyl
nucleosides. During the initial few minutes, ribofurano-
syl nucleosides with the β-configuration (42, 176, 161,
153) were oxidized faster than α-anomers (50, 177, 162,
154). The rate of periodate consumption by these
β-nucleosides after 1 min is ~1.2 to ~1.6 times faster
than for the α-anomers. The formation of a covalently
linked, cyclic bidendate complex between the oxidant and
a glycol gives the obligatory intermediate.[55,56] Any
steric effect that would hinder the formation of this
intermediate or inhibit the approach of periodate would
reduce the initial rate.[56] Hence, the observed difference
in the velocity of periodate consumption by anomeric pairs
of ribonucleosides can be explained by the steric hind-
rance of the α structure. This also accounts for the
slower oxidation of lyxo-A (140) relative to α-adenosine
(50) since in the former, both $4'-CH_2OH$ and the chromophore
are on the approach-side for the attack of periodate.

The results of the present study give the following
order for the oxidation rate (Scheme VIII). However,
the rapid oxidation of all nucleosides having a cis 2',3'-
diol structure (~20 min. completion) suggests that α and
β-anomers may not be distinguishable with higher con-
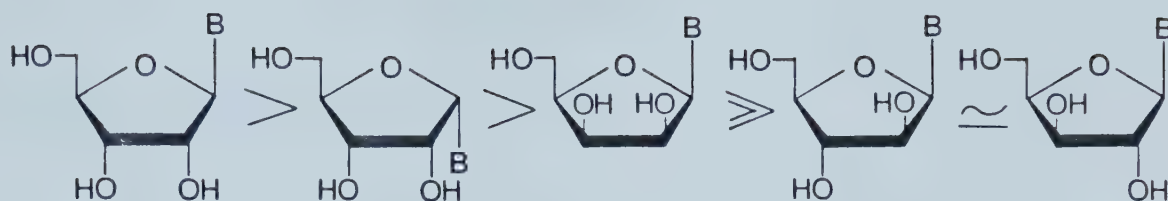
Scheme VIII

centrations of periodate. These results demonstrate a
new method of assigning the anomeric configurations of a
given anomeric pair of ribonucleosides using spectrophoto-
metric measurement of the rate of periodate reduction at
a concentration of $\sim 10^{-7}$ $\underline{M}$ IO_4^-.

EXPERIMENTAL

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Melting points were taken on a Reichert microstage apparatus and are uncorrected. A Cary 15 spectrophotometer was used for the determination of UV spectra and reduction rates of periodate by nucleosides. CD and ORD data were obtained on a Jasco ORD-UV-5 (CD ss-20) spectropolarimeter at room temperature (23~25°C) using a 1 cm cell. Optical rotations were taken on a Perkin Elmer Model 141 polarimeter using a 1 dm, 1 ml microcell. Proton NMR spectra were recorded on Varian HA-100 (100 MHz) or Perkin Elmer R32 (90 MHz) instruments in DMSO-d_6 with TMS as an internal standard or D_2O with DOH as standard (δ 4.8 ppm). Electron impact mass spectra were obtained by the mass spectrometry laboratory of this department on an AEI MS-50 instrument using direct probe sample introduction at 150-200°C. Chemical ionization mass spectra were obtained on an AEI MS-12 instrument using ammonia as the ionizing gas. Elemental analyses were determined by the microanalytical laboratory of this department.

Electrophoresis was performed on Whatman No. 1 paper using a Savant flatplate apparatus (HV-3000 A). Evaporations were effected using a Buchler rotary evaporator equipped with a dry-ice condenser under water aspirator

or oil pump vacuum. Hydrogenations were effected using a Parr shaking apparatus. Diffusion crystallization[129] was carried out using alcohol with ether diffusion. Silica gel column chromatography was performed on JT Baker No. 3405 silica gel (60-200 mesh), and alumina column chromatography on Merck Aluminum oxide (acid-washed). Anion and cation exchange chromatography were carried out using Dow chemical Dowex 1x2 (OH^-) and Dowex 50Wx8 (H^+) resins, respectively. Barneby-Cheney AU-4 charcoal for absorption of nucleosides and column chromatography was conditioned prior to use by heating at reflux with 1$\underline{N}$ HCl for several hours, washing with water to neutrality, refluxing with 1$\underline{N}$ NaOH for several hours, again washing with water to neutrality, and then washing with methanol, chloroform, and air drying. All solvents used were of reagent grade. Solvents (water, methanol, DMF, pyridine) used for spectrophotometric and polarimetric study were further purified. Water was refluxed over potassium permanganate and distilled twice. Aqueous solutions of specified pH and buffer solutions (pH meter) were prepared using this water. Methanol was refluxed over and distilled from magnesium metal turnings. DMF was redistilled. Pyridine was dried over potassium hydroxide pellets for 18 hours and then distilled. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck precoated plastic sheets (0.2 mm) or glass plates (0.25 mm, silica gel 60 F-254).

Developed chromatograms were evaluated under UV light
(254 or 366 nm) or by spraying with a 5% solution of H_2SO_4
in ethanol and heating the plate to 100-200°C. Solvent
systems used for TLC were Solvent S_1: the upper phase
of ethyl acetate/n-propanol/H_2O (4:1:2), solvent S_2:
isopropanol/chloroform/conc. aqueous ammonia (10:10:1),
solvent S_3: methanol/chloroform (3:7). Sodium meta-
periodate (BDH Chemicals, LTD., England) was used for all
periodate oxidations, and sodium borohydride (Fischer
Scientific Company, U.S.A.) was used for all reductions
of the periodate oxidation products.

NUCLEOSIDE MATERIALS

5-Azacytidine was purchased from Aldrich Chemical
Company, Inc. 8-Azaguanosine and 8-azaadenosine were
kindly provided by Dr. J.A. Montgomery, Southern Research
Institute. α-Adenosine, 7-β-D-ribofuranosyltheophylline,
7-α-D-ribofuranosyltheophylline, α-L-uridine-5'-phosphate
dilithium salt, β-L-uridine-5'-phosphate dilithium salt,
and α-L-cytidine-5'-phosphate dilithium salt were kindly
provided by Dr. B. Shimizu and Dr. M. Kaneko, Sankyo
Co., LTD., Japan. Other compounds were available in our
laboratory or were synthesized as described (vide infra).

PREPARATION OF NUCLEOSIDES$_{OX-RED}$ (in situ), THEIR OPTICAL ROTATION MEASUREMENT AND PAPER ELECTROPHORESIS

Preparation of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ)

Method 1.   To a nucleoside ($\leq$80 µmol) in a 2 ml volumetric
test tube was added a sodium periodate solution (1.2 ml,
1.2-1.5 eq.), and the mixture was stirred magnetically
at room temperature while protected from light for 1.5
hr.   Sodium borohydride (6-8 mg) was added and the
solution was stirred for 30 min.   Excess sodium borohydride
was destroyed by the slow addition of 1$\underline{M}$ sodium dihydro-
gen phosphate buffer (pH 6.5) (~0.5 ml), and the solu-
tion was stirred for 30 min.   The volume was then
adjusted to exactly 2 ml by addition of the buffer solu-
tion and stirred for an additional 30 min before sub-
jection to the optical rotation measurement.   Nucleo-
sides$_{ox-red}$ (<u>in situ</u>) for ORD measurement were prepared
in the same manner but eight to ten times less nucleoside
was used.   A reference solution for the ORD measurement
was made following the same procedure with omission of
the nucleoside.

Method 2.   Ara-A, xylo-A and ara-C (as its HCl salt) were
treated in the same manner except the oxidation was con-
tinued for 4 days using ~1.5 equivalent of the periodate
solution.

Optical rotation measurements

Optical rotations of all nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (<u>in situ</u>)
were measured at room temperature (23-26°C).   The

reference solution showed no optical rotation and was used as a base line for the ORD measurement. Specific rotations were calculated based upon the theoretical weight of nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ produced. Specific rotations were obtained for all nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) at the wave-length of the sodium $\underline{D}$ line (589 nm). ORD curves (300-600 nm) and/or specific rotations at wavelengths other than 589 nm (365, 436, 546 and 578 nm bands of mercury) were recorded to examine whether nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) gave negative or positive Cotton effects (or plain curves) in these regions.

Paper electrophoresis

Paper electrophoresis of all nucleosides$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) and their precursor nucleosides was performed on Whatman No. 1 paper (25.5 x 56.5 cm) using 0.1$\underline{M}$ sodium borate at pH 9.3, at 1.2-1.5 KV for 1.5 hr. Solutions of the compounds were applied as spots 10 cm from the cathodic end of a paper. Migrations were measured rela-tive to that of uridine as a standard (which migrated ~12 cm toward the anode). Each nucleoside$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) migrated as a single spot. All ox-red products were observed under UV light (254 nm) except 5,6-dihydrouri-dine$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) and its precursor nucleoside, which were detected by the method of Fink et al,[130] and methyl β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranoside$_{ox-red}$ (in situ) and its precursor

glycoside.

A compilation of the above results are summarized in Table III.

pH AND SOLVENT EFFECTS ON OPTICAL ROTATIONS OF ADENOSINE$_{OX-RED}$ (43), TUBERCIDIN$_{OX-RED}$ (209), INOSINE$_{OX-RED}$ (135) AND URIDINE$_{OX-RED}$ (136)

Aqueous solutions used were: pH 1 (0.1$\underline{N}$ HCl), pH 3 (0.1$\underline{M}$ NaH$_2$PO$_4$ adjusted with 0.1$\underline{N}$ HCl), pH 5 (0.1$\underline{M}$ NaH$_2$PO$_4$ adjusted with 0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH), pH 7 (0.1$\underline{M}$ NaH$_2$PO$_4$ adjusted with 0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH), pH 9 (0.1$\underline{M}$ Na$_2$HPO$_4$ adjusted with 0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH), pH 11 (0.1$\underline{M}$ Na$_2$HPO$_4$ adjusted with 0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH) and pH 13 (0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH adjusted with 1$\underline{N}$ NaOH).

Water, methanol, $\underline{N},\underline{N}$-dimethylformamide (DMF), and pyridine were used in the solvent effect study on optical rotations of the title compounds. Since the quantity of crystalline inosine$_{ox-red}$ (10-14 mg/2 ml) used was not readily soluble in methanol (other than aqueous methanol), only water, DMF and pyridine were used. Each sample was evaluated in the following way: Methanol solutions of adenosine$_{ox-red}$, tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ and uridine$_{ox-red}$ were prepared. Exact aliquots of each solution were pipetted into 2 ml volumetric test tubes and the methanol was evaporated at room temperature. The test tubes containing the residue were dried over P$_2$O$_5$ under vacuum at room temperature overnight. The concentration of the aliquot

taken was redetermined by the extinction coefficient of nucleoside$_{ox-red}$ (adenosine$_{ox-red}$ ε 15,200 at 260 nm in H_2O, tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ ε 11,500 at 270 nm in H_2O, and uridine$_{ox-red}$ ε 10,100 at 262 nm in H_2O). Inosine$_{ox-red}$ was weighed directly into the 2 ml volumetric test tubes. Each sample was dissolved in 2 ml of the appropriate pH solution or solvent. Optical rotations were measured at room temperature (23-24°C) at 365, 436, 546, 578 and 589 nm. After the measurements, paper electrophoresis was performed to confirm that there was no decomposition or hydrolysis of the compounds in the pH solutions and solvents used.

The results are summarized in Table V-VIII.

RATES OF PERIODATE REDUCTION BY NUCLEOSIDES

The rate of reduction of periodate by nucleosides (adenosine and its α-anomer, lyxo-A, uridine and its α-anomer, cytidine and its α-anomer, 7-β-D-ribofuranosyltheophylline and its α-anomer, ara-A, xylo-A, ara-C) was estimated spectrophotometrically by the method of Dixon and Lipkin.[123]

Method 1. Nucleosides with the readily oxidized 2',3'-cis glycol unit (adenosine and its α-anomer, lyxo-A, uridine and its α-anomer, cytidine and its α-anomer, 7-β-D-ribofuranosyltheophylline and its α-anomer) were followed over a 20 minutes time course.

Four quartz cells (1-cm path length, ~1.5 ml cell capacity) were used. $Cell_1$ was filled with water and used as a blank. A 0.6 ml aliquot of aqueous nucleoside solution (containing ~10^{-7} mole) was added to both $cell_2$ and $cell_4$. Water (0.6 ml) was added to both $cell_2$ and $cell_3$. A 0.6 ml aliquot of 4.113 x 10^{-4} $\underline{M}$ $NaIO_4/H_2O$ (2.468 x 10^{-7} mole) was added to $cell_3$. The solutions in $cell_2$ and $cell_3$ were mixed (independently) and their absorbances were recorded. Then, 0.6 ml of the same periodate solution was added to $cell_4$, the contents was mixed rapidly and the absorbance was taken immediately and at regular time intervals (min). An appropriate wavelength was chosen where the absorbance of the nucleoside was minimal and the absorption of periodate anion was close to its maximum value (the perio-date anion has a maximum absorption at ~223 nm^{131}). When the absorbance of $cell_4$ had declined to a constant value, the oxidation was considered to be complete. Re-duction of the equivalents of periodate per nucleoside at a given time was calculated as follows;

A_{red} = ($Acell_2$ + $Acell_3$) - $Acell_4$ (at the constant wavelength)

where Ared; the decrease in absorbance by reduction of periodate

$Acell_2$; the absorbance of $cell_2$

$Acell_3$; the absorbance of $cell_3$

$Acell_4$; the absorbance of $cell_4$

$$\frac{Ared}{Acell_3 \text{ at zero time}} = \text{the periodate fraction which was reduced}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{Ared}{Acell_3 \text{ at zero time}} \times \frac{\text{added periodate (mole)}}{\text{added nucleoside (mole)}} = \begin{array}{l}\text{the ratio of equivalents} \\ \text{of reduced periodate} \\ \text{per nucleoside}\end{array}$$

The absorbance of $cell_3$ was monitored over a period of 25 min to ascertain any change in absorption of periodate anion due to changes in temperature.[123,131] However, there was but a negligible change.

Method 2. Nucleosides with a slowly oxidized 2',3'-trans glycol unit (xylo-A, ara-A, ara-C) were studied by an analogous method over a period of several days. Aliquots (5 ml) of a nucleoside solution ($\sim 10^{-6}$ mole) were added to 10 ml volumetric $flask_1$ and $flask_3$. Water (5 ml) was added to 10 ml volumetric $flask_1$ and $flask_2$. A 5 ml portion of periodate solution ($\sim 10^{-6}$ mole) was then added to $flask_2$ and $flask_3$. All the solutions were mixed well and protected from light except while rotations were being measured. The absorbances of all the solutions were recorded every 24 hr using water as a blank. The periodate reduction was calculated as in method 1.

The results are summarized in Table IX.

SYNTHESES

Preparation of 6-methylcytidine (178)

This compound was prepared by the general Hibert-
Johnson silyl ether method of Niedballa and Vorbrüggen.[132]

6-Methylcytosine[133] (1.25 g, 10 mmole) was silylated
by refluxing for 3 hr with hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS)
(6 ml) and trimethylchlorosilane (TMCS) (1 ml) with exclu-
sion of moisture. Excess HMDS and TMCS were removed under
reduced pressure to leave the silylated 6-methylcytosine
as a crystalline solid. A solution of 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-
tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose (4 g, 8 mmole) in dry
CH_3CN (60 ml) was added to the silylated 6-methylcytosine,
and the mixture was stirred. Then, the mixture was cooled
in an ice bath, and stannic chloride (1.3 ml) in dry
CH_3CN (8 ml) was added. An additional portion of stannic
chloride (1 ml) in dry CH_3CN (8 ml) was added after 1.5
hr. The reaction mixture was stirred at ~25°C for 12 hr
and evaporated under reduced pressure at ~25°C. To this
residue was added 1,2-dichloroethane (200 ml) and the
solution was treated with saturated aqueous sodium bi-
carbonate solution (300 ml). The resulting emulsion was
filtered through a Celite pad. The organic layer was
separated, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evapo-
rated. The residue was chromatographed on a column of
alumina (18 x 4.5 cm) which was eluted with ethyl acetate/

n-hexane (2:1) (700 ml), followed by ethyl acetate/
methanol (9:1) to give 2.93 g of 1-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-
β-D-ribofuranosyl)-6-methylcytosine as a solid foam. To
1.12 g of this foam was added methanol (50 ml) saturated
with ammonia at 0°C. The solution was sealed in a steel
bomb and heated at 60°C overnight. The solution was
evaporated to dryness and the residue was partitioned
between water (10 ml) and 1,2-dichloroethane (20 ml).
The aqueous layer was concentrated to a small volume and
applied to a column (21 x 2.5 cm) of Dowex 1x2 (OH⁻).
The column was eluted with water. The appropriate frac-
tions were collected and evaporated to dryness. The
residue was crystallized from methanol/water to give 319
mg of 178. The remainder of the 6-methylcytidine tri-
benzoate was treated in the same manner to give 725 mg
of 178 (overall yield, 1.044 g, 51% from 1-O-acetyl-2,
3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose): mp 233-235°C;
$[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -47.4° (c 0.18, H$_2$O) [lit.[133] mp 230-232°C dec.,
$[\alpha]_D^{30}$ -41.5° (c 1.55, H$_2$O)]; CD (0.0739 mmole/ℓ, H$_2$O,
room temperature) $[\theta]_{270}$ -0.5 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{250}$ 1.2 x 10^3,
$[\theta]_{220}$ -13.5 x 10^3 [lit.[18e] CD (H$_2$O) $[\theta]_{270}$ -1.2 x 10^3,
$[\theta]_{247}$ 0.8 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{214}$ -15.0 x 10^3]; UV (H$_2$O)$_{max}$ 270 nm
(ε 9,600), 233 nm (ε 9,800), (0.1N HCl)$_{max}$ 277 nm
(ε 14,500), (0.1N NaOH)$_{max}$ 272 nm (ε 9,700), 231 nm
(ε 9,300); NMR (DMSO-d$_6$) δ 2.23 (s, 3, 6-CH$_3$), 3.52 (m,
2, two 5'-H's), 3.72 (m, 1, 4'-H), 4.09 (m, 1, 3'-H), 4.60

(m, 1, 2'-H), 4.85 (m, 2, two OH's), 5.03 (d, 1, J = 6 Hz, OH), 5.47 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 5 Hz, 1'-H), 5.57 (s, 1, 5-H), 7.10 (s, 2, NH_2); MS m/e 240.0747 (M^+-NH_3), calcd for $C_{10}H_{12}N_2O_5$: 240.0746. <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{15}N_3O_5$: C, 46.69; H, 5.88; N, 16.33. Found: C, 46.90; H, 5.99; N, 16.29.

Preparation of 3-β-<u>D</u>-ribofuranosyl-6-methyluracil (171) and 1,3-bis(β-<u>D</u>-ribofuranosyl)-6-methyluracil (172)

An attempt to prepare 6-methyluridine by a reported method[132b] gave only the title compounds.

6-Methyluracil[134] (1.28 g, 10 mmole) was silylated with HMDS (6 ml) and TMCS (1 ml) by refluxing the mixture for 2 hr with exclusion of moisture. After removal of excess HMDS and TMCS, the silylated 6-methyluracil was distilled to obtain 2.5 g of an oil. To this oil in an ice bath was added 1-<u>O</u>-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-<u>O</u>-benzoyl-β-<u>D</u>-ribofuranose (4 g, 8 mmole) in dry CH_3CN (120 ml) and stannic chloride (1.3 ml) in dry CH_3CN (60 ml) with stirring. The solution was then stirred at 22°C for 4 hr. After work up,[132b] the oily residue was chromatographed on an alumina column (22 x 4.5 cm). Elution was effected with <u>n</u>-hexane/ethyl acetate (9:1) (600 ml), ethyl acetate/ <u>n</u>/hexane (2:1) (700 ml) and finally ethyl acetate/methanol (9:1), and 18 ml fractions were collected. Fractions 47-60 were combined and evaporated to give 0.88 g of 1,3-bis-

(2,3,5-tri-$\underline{O}$-benzoyl-β-$\underline{\underline{D}}$-ribofuranosyl)-6-methyluracil as a foam.

This foam was treated with absolute methanol (25 ml) and sodium (0.12 g) was added. The mixture was sealed and kept overnight at room temperature. The resulting solution was evaporated to a small volume under reduced pressure at room temperature. Water (30 ml) was added and the solution was neutralized with Dowex 50W x 8 (H^+) resin. The resin was filtered and the solution was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml x 2). The aqueous layer was evaporated to give 295 mg of $\underline{172}$ as a foam (19% from 1-$\underline{O}$-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-$\underline{O}$-benzoyl-β-$\underline{\underline{D}}$-ribofuranose):   TLC R_f = 0.18 (solvent S_1), R_f = 0.48 (solvent S_3); UV ($H_2O)_{max}$ 265 nm (ε 11,200), 210 nm (sh) (ε 8,900); ORD ($\underline{c}$ 0.022, H_2O, room temperature) $[\phi]_{283}$ -2,600, $[\phi]_{258}$ 2,300, $[\phi]_{227}$ -7,700 [lit.[135a] UV (pH 7)$_{max}$ 265 nm (log ε 4.07), 2.08 nm (log ε 3.96), ORD ($\underline{c}$ 0.075) $[\phi]_{283}$ -5,300, $[\phi]_{258}$ 5,100, $[\phi]_{227}$ -12,900]; NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 2.27 (s, 3, 6-CH_3), 3.30-5.20 (m, 16, sugar protons), 5.46 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 4 Hz, 1'-H of N_1-ribosyl), 5.66 (s, 1, 5-H), 6.02 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 4 Hz, 1'-H of N_3-ribosyl).

Fractions 80-105 were combined and evaporated to give 2.54 g of 3-(2,3,5-tri-$\underline{O}$-benzoyl-β-$\underline{\underline{D}}$-ribofuranosyl)-6-methyluracil as a foam. This was debenzoylated using sodium in methanol, as described above (for $\underline{172}$), to give 980 mg of $\underline{171}$ as a foam (48% from 1-$\underline{O}$-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-

$\underline{O}$-benzoyl-β-$\underline{D}$-ribofuranose): TLC R_f = 0.36 (solvent S_1), R_f = 0.61 (solvent S_3); $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -26.6° ($\underline{c}$ 0.12, H_2O); UV $(H_2O)_{max}$ 264 nm (ε 7,600), (0.1$\underline{N}$ HCl)$_{max}$ 264 nm (ε 7,400), (0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH)$_{max}$ 289 nm (ε 7,900), 224 nm (ε 5,900) [lit.[133] $[\alpha]_D^{27}$ -27.6° ($\underline{c}$ 1, H_2O), UV (pH 1 and pH 4)$_{max}$ 265 nm (ε 8,700), (pH 11)$_{max}$ 289 nm (ε 9,800), (pH 14)$_{max}$ 289 nm (ε 11,300)]; CD ($\underline{c}$ 0.0724 mmole/ℓ, H_2O, room temperature) $[\theta]_{270}$ -1.7 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{244}$ 2.6 x 10^3 [lit.[18b] $[\theta]_{268}$ -4.3 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{242}$ 6.2 x 10^3]; NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 2.00 (d, 3, J < 1 Hz, 6-CH_3), 3.30-3.80 (m, 3, 4-H and two 5'-H's), 4.08 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 3'-H), 4.43 (dd, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 4 Hz, $J_{2'-3'}$ = 6 Hz, 2'-H), 5.37 (d, 1, J < 1 Hz, 5-H), 6.04 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 4 Hz, 1'-H), 11.0 (bs, 1, NH); MS m/e 240.0738 (M^+-H_2O), calcd for $C_{10}H_{12}N_2O_5$: 240.0746.

Preparation of 6-methyluridine (<u>173</u>)

This compound was prepared by the method of Winkley and Robins.[133]

To 6-methylcytidine (220 mg, 0.86 mmole) in 2$\underline{N}$ acetic acid (35 ml) was added sodium nitrate (593 mg, 8.6 mmole), and the reaction mixture was sealed and stirred at room temperature for 2 days. The solution was neutralized with 1$\underline{N}$ sodium hydroxide solution and the volume was reduced by evaporation at 35°C. AU-4 charcoal (2.5 g) was added and the mixture was stirred for 4 hr. The charcoal was collected, washed with water, and

extracted for 15 hr with ethanol/conc. aqueous ammonia (9:1) (150 ml) in a soxhlet apparatus. The extract was evaporated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in water and applied to a column (18 x 2.5 cm) of Dowex 50Wx8 (H^+). The column was eluted with water and the appropriate fractions were collected and evaporated. The residue was crystallized from methanol with ether diffusion to give 50 mg (22%) of 173: mp 178-180°C; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -45.8° (c 0.07, H_2O) [lit.[133] mp 177-178°C, $[\alpha]_D^{30}$ -28.6° (c 1.52, H_2O), lit.[135a] mp 179-181°C]; CD (c 0.0759 mmole/ℓ, H_2O, room temperature) $[\theta]_{265}$ -0.3 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{250}$ 0.8 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{214}$ -9.9 x 10^3 [lit.[18e] $[\theta]_{265}$ -0.3 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{250}$ 1.0 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{214}$ -10.0 x 10^3]; NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 2.26 (s, 3, 6-CH_3), 3.40-3.80 (m, 3, 4'-H and two 5'-H's), 4.06 (q, 1, J = 6 Hz, 3'-H), 4.58 (m, 2, 2'-H was overlapped with OH), 4.90 (d, 1, J = 6 Hz, OH), 5.17 (d, 1, J = 6 Hz, OH), 5.44 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 4 Hz, 1'-H), 5.54 (s, 1, 5-H), 11.20 (s, 1, NH); MS m/e 227.0672 (M^+-CH_2OH), calcd for $C_9H_{11}N_2O_5$: 227.0668. Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}N_2O_6 \cdot 1/4$ H_2O; C, 45.72; H, 5.56; N, 10.66. Found: C, 45.87; H, 5.50; N, 10.42.

Preparation of 6-azauridine (182)

The method of Niedballa and Vorbrüggen[132a] gave 1-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-6-azauridine in 80% yield. Methanolysis of this 6-azauridine tribenzoate (1.12 g, 2 mmole) using sodium methoxide (6 mmole) in

absolute methanol (30 ml) followed by crystallization of the product from methanol gave 420 mg (85%) of $\underline{182}$: mp 159-160°C; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -134.7° ($\underline{c}$ 0.13, pyridine) [lit.[135b] mp 158°C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -132° ($\underline{c}$ 0.5, pyridine)]; UV $(H_2O)_{max}$ 262 nm (ϵ 6,400); CD ($\underline{c}$ 0.127 mmole/ℓ, H_2O, room temperature) $[\theta]_{260}$ -12.0 x 10^3 [lit.[18e] $[\theta]_{257}$ -10.0 x 10^3]; NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 3.44 (m, 2, two 5'-H's), 3.78 (m, 1, 4'-H), 4.00 (m, 1, 3'-H), 4.20 (m, 1, 2'-H), 4.60 (m, 1, OH), 4.98 (bs, 1, OH), 5.20 (bs, 1, OH), 5.90 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 4 Hz, 1'-H), 7.56 (s, 1, 5-H); MS m/e 246.0723 (M^++1), calcd for $C_8H_{12}N_3O_6$: 246.0726. $\underline{Anal}$. Calcd for $C_8H_{11}N_3O_8$: C, 39.19; H, 4.52; N, 17.14. Found: C, 39.06; H, 4.63; N, 17.09.

Preparation of 3-methyl-6-azauridine ($\underline{184}$).

A mixture of 6-azauridine (247 mg, 1 mmole), $\underline{N},\underline{N}'$-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal (0.96 g, 8 mmole) and dry chloroform (5 ml) was gently refluxed for 7 hr while protected from moisture. The resulting solution was evaporated to a syrup, which was dissolved in water (6 ml) and kept overnight. The aqueous solution was evaporated and the product was purified on a preparative TLC plate (Whatman PLK5F, silica gel, 20 x 20 cm) using solvent system S_1. The main UV absorbing zone (R_f = 0.65) was collected and the product eluted with methanol. Evaporation of the methanol extract and crystallization of the

residue from methanol with ether diffusion gave 209 mg
(80%) of 184: mp 125-127°C; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -125.6° (c 0.11,
pyridine) [lit.[136] mp 124°C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -128° (c 1.3, pyridine)];
UV (MeOH)$_{max}$ 263 nm (ϵ 6,500); NMR (DMSO-d$_6$) δ 3.18 (s,
3, CH$_3$), 3.47 (m, 2, two 5'-H's), 3.82 (q, 1, J = 5 Hz,
4'-H), 4.04 (t, 1, J = 5 Hz, 3'-H), 4.27 (dd, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ =
3.5 Hz, $J_{2'-3'}$ = 5 Hz, 2'-H), 4.96 (bs, 3, three OH's),
5.97 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 3.5 Hz, 1'-H), 7.66 (s, 1, 5-H); MS
m/e 241.0701 (M$^+$-H$_2$O), calcd for C$_9$H$_{11}$N$_3$O$_5$: 241.0698.
Anal. Calcd for C$_9$H$_{13}$N$_3$O$_6$: C, 41.70; H, 5.06; N, 16.21.
Found: C, 41.62; H, 5.14; N, 16.24.

Preparation of 6-azacytidine (183)

6-Azacytidine was prepared by the method described
above for 6-methylcytidine (178).

6-Azacytosine[137] (300 mg, 2.7 mmole) was silylated
as described in the above preparation of 178. After re-
moval of excess silylating reagents, the product was
suspended in dry 1,2-dichloroethane (3 ml) and treated
with 1-0-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-0-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose (1.21
g, 2.4 mmole) in dry 1,2-dichloroethane (15 ml) in the
presence of stannic chloride (0.3 ml), followed by addi-
tional stannic chloride (0.3 ml) after 2 hr. The reaction
mixture was stirred at room temperature for a total of
20 hr. The reaction mixture was diluted with 1,2-dichloro-
ethane (20 ml) and treated with aqueous saturated sodium

bicarbonate solution (40 ml). The resulting emulsion
was filtered through a Celite pad and the organic layer
was separated, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and
evaporated. The residue was applied to an alumina column
(15 x 2.5 cm) and the column was eluted with ethyl acetate/
n-hexane (2:1) (200 ml) followed by chloroform/methanol
(9:1). Appropriate fractions were collected and evapo-
rated to dryness to give a crystalline solid. This was
recrystallized from 95% ethanol to give 1.18 g (88%) of
1-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-6-azacytosine
(mp 219-220°C). A sample of this 6-azacytidine tribenzoate
(550 mg, 0.99 mmole) in methanol (60 ml) saturated with
ammonia at 0°C was sealed and kept at room temperature
for 3 days. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue
was dissolved in water (10 ml). The aqueous solution was
extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 ml x 3) and evaporated. The
residue was crystallized from methanol to give 217 mg (90%)
of 183: mp 222-224°C [lit.[138] mp 222-224°C (dec)]; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$
-127.8° (c 0.08, H_2O); UV $(H_2O)_{max}$ 263 nm (ε 7,800), (0.1N
HCl)$_{max}$ 279 nm (ε 6,800), (0.1N NaOH)$_{max}$ 275 nm (ε 5,600),
225 nm (ε 9,300); CD (c 0.1049 mmole/ℓ, H_2O, room tempera-
ture) $[\theta]_{270}$ -6.5 x 10^3; NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 3.40 (m, 2, two
5'-H's), 3.76 (q, 1, J = 5 Hz, 4'-H), 3.97 (t, 1, J = 5 Hz,
3'-H), 4.20 (t, 1, J = 5 Hz, 2'-H), 4.62 (bs, 1, OH), 4.96
(bs, 2, two OH's), 5.98 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 5 Hz, 1'-H), 7.50
(s, 1, 5-H), 7.90 (bs, 2, NH_2); MS m/e 226.0697 (M^+-H_2O),

calcd for $C_8H_{10}N_4O_4$: 226.0702. <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for $C_8H_{12}N_4O_5$: C, 39.35; H, 4.95; N, 22.94. Found: C, 39.14; H, 4.82; N, 23.24.

Preparation of 6-methyl-2-β-<u>D</u>-ribofuranosyl-3-pyridazone (<u>188</u>)

To a solution of 6-methyl-3-(2H)-pyridazone[144] (300 mg, 2.7 mmole) and 1-<u>O</u>-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-<u>O</u>-benzoyl-β-<u>D</u>-ribo-furanose (1.36 g, 2.7 mmole) in dry CH_3CN (30 ml) was added stannic chloride (0.4 ml) and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 hr with exclusion of moisture. Additional stannic chloride (0.4 ml) was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 hr. The solution was evaporated at 30°C under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in methylene chloride (40 ml) and treated with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (40 ml). The resulting emulsion was filtered through a Celite pad. The organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (18 x 2.5 cm). Elution with ethyl acetate/<u>n</u>-hexane (2:1) and crystallization from 95% ethanol gave 700 mg (47%) of 6-methyl-2-(2,3,5-tri-<u>O</u>-benzoyl-β-<u>D</u>-ribofuranosyl)-3-pyridazone: mp 120-121°C; <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for $C_{31}H_{26}N_2O_8$: C, 67.14; H, 4.73; N, 5.05. Found: C, 67.42; H, 4.86; N, 4.97.

The above compound (320 mg, 0.58 mmole) was de-benzoylated as described in the above preparation of 6-azacytidine (183). Crystallization of the product from methanol with ether diffusion gave 112 mg (79%) of 188: mp 103-105°C; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -105.9° (c 0.09, H_2O); UV (H_2O)$_{max}$ 290 nm (ϵ 3,500), (0.1N HCl)$_{max}$ 290 nm (ϵ 3,500), (0.1N NaOH)$_{max}$ 293 nm (ϵ 3,500); CD (c 0.1680 mmole/ℓ, H_2O, room temperature) $[\theta]_{288}$ -4.2 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{236}$ -6.3 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{216}$ -10.7 x 10^3; NMR (D_2O) δ 2.43 (s, 3, CH_3), 3.89 (m, two 5'-H's), 4.24 (m, 1, 4'-H), 4.55 (t, 1, $J_{2'-3'}$ = 5.5 Hz, 3'-H), 4.67 (dd, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 3 Hz, $J_{2'-3'}$ = 5.5 Hz, 2'-H), 6.43 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 3 Hz, 1'-H), 7.04 (d, 1, J_{4-5} = 10 Hz, 4-H), 7.49 (d, 1, J_{4-5} = 10 Hz, 5-H); MS m/e 243.0976 (M^++1), calcd for $C_{10}H_{15}N_2O_5$: 243.0980; 242.0897 (M^+), calcd. for $C_{10}H_{14}N_2O_5$: 242.0902. Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}N_2O_5 \cdot 1/3\ H_2O$: C, 48.39; H, 5.96; N, 11.28. Found: C, 48.42; H, 5.80; N, 11.46.

Preparation of 2-β-D-ribofuranosyl-3-pyridazone (189)

This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to the above preparation of 6-methyl-2-β-D-ribofuranosyl-3-pyridazone (188).

To a solution of 3(2H)-pyridazone[145] (255 mg, 2.7 mmole) and 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose (1.31 g, 2.6 mmole) in dry CH_3CN (30 ml) was added stannic chloride (0.4 ml), and the solution was stirred at room temperature

for 24 hr with exclusion of moisture. Additional stannic chloride (0.4 ml) was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 48 hr. After work up, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (19 x 2.5 cm). Elution with ethyl acetate/n-hexane (2:1) and crystallization of the product from ethyl acetate gave 165 mg (12%) of 2-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-3-pyridazone: mp 110-112°C (lit.[113] mp 117-118°C); Anal. Calcd for $C_{30}H_{24}N_2O_8$: C, 66.66; H, 4.48; N, 5.18. Found: C, 66.36; H, 4.58; N, 5.08.

The above compound (160 mg, 0.30 mmole) in methanol (30 ml) saturated with ammonia at 0°C was sealed and kept at room temperature for 3 days. After work up, crystallization of the product from methanol with ether diffusion gave 52 mg (77%) of 189: mp 168-170°C; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -132.1° (c 0.08, H_2O) [lit.[139] mp 171.5-173.5°C; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ = -132.3° (c 2.0, H_2O)]; UV (H_2O)$_{max}$ 284 nm (ε 4,000), (0.1N HCl)$_{max}$ 285 nm (ε 4,200), (0.1N NaOH)$_{max}$ 286 nm (ε 3,900); CD (c 0.1709 mmole/ℓ, H_2O, room temperature) $[\theta]_{283}$ -5.4 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{238}$ -6.3 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{216}$ -10.4 x 10^3 [lit.[113] CD (H_2O) $[\theta]_{290}$ -4.9 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{245}$ -6.2 x 10^3, $[\theta]_{223}$ -10.1 x 10^3]; NMR (D_2O) δ 3.85 (m, 2, two 5'-H's), 4.22 (m, 1, 4'-H), 4.51 (t, 1, $J_{2'-3'}$ = 5.5 Hz, 3'-H), 4.69 (dd, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 3 Hz, $J_{2'-3'}$ = 5.5 Hz, 2'-H), 6.43 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 3 Hz, 1'-H), 7.13 (dd, 1, J_{4-6} = 2 Hz, J_{4-5} = 10 Hz, 4-H), 7.57 (dd, 1, J_{4-5} = 10 Hz, J_{5-6} = 4 Hz, 5-H), 8.15 (dd,

1, J_{4-6} = 2 Hz, J_{5-6} = 4 Hz, 6-H); MS m/e 229.0830 (M^++1),
calcd for $C_9H_{13}N_2O_5$: 229.0824; 228.0748 (M^+), calcd for
$C_9H_{12}N_2O_5$: 228.0746. <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for $C_9H_{17}N_2O_5$: C,
47.37; H, 5.30; N, 12.28. Found: C, 47.17; H, 5.15; N,
12.17.

Preparation of 1,3-dimethylpseudouridine (<u>190</u>)

A mixture of pseudouridine (73 mg, 0.3 mmole) and
<u>N</u>,<u>N</u>'-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal (0.42 g, 3.5 mmole)
in absolute methanol (5 ml) was refluxed for 24 hr while
protected from moisture. The solution was evaporated
and the residue was applied to a Dowex 1x2 (OH⁻) column
(9 x 2.5 cm). The column was eluted with water. Appro-
priate fractions were collected and evaporated to give a
solid. Recrystallization of this product from methanol
with ether diffusion gave 45 mg (56%) of <u>190</u>: mp 177-
179°C (lit.[140] 174°C); UV (MeOH)$_{max}$ 270 nm (ε 8,800); NMR
(DMSO-d_6) δ 3.17 & δ 3.30 (s & s, 3 & 3, N_1-CH_3 and N_3-CH_3),
3.40-3.80 (m, 3, two 5'-H's and 4'-H), 3.90 (m, 2, 2'-H
and 3'-H), 4.51 (d, 1, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 4 Hz, 1'-H), 4.60-5.00
(m, 3, three OH's), 7.78 (s, 1, 6-H); MS m/e 273.1075
(M^++1), calcd for $C_{11}H_{17}N_2O_6$: 273.1084; 272.1006 (M^+),
calcd for $C_{11}H_{16}N_2O_6$: 272.1008. <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for
$C_{11}H_{16}N_2O_6$: C, 48.53; H, 5.92; N, 10.29. Found: C,
48.52; H, 6.00; N, 10.22.

Preparation of 5,6-dihydrouridine (187)

This compound was prepared by the reported method.[141]
Uridine (161) (488 mg, 2 mmole) in water (50 ml) was
hydrogenated over 5% Rh-Al$_2$O$_3$ (100 mg) at 25 psi for 2
hr. The catalyst was filtered and the aqueous solution was
evaporated to give an oil. The oily product was applied
to a silica gel column (20 x 2 cm) and the column was
eluted with methanol/chloroform (3:7). Fractions (10 ml)
4-16 were combined and evaporated to dryness under reduced
pressure to leave a yellow foam. The foam was dissolved
in aqueous methanol and decolorized with charcoal. The
charcoal was filtered and the solvent was evaporated
to give 473 mg (97%) of 187: TLC R$_f$ = 0.38 (solvent S$_3$);
$[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -38.3° (c 0.05, H$_2$O) [lit.[141] $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -36.8 ± 0.4°
(c 2.12, H$_2$O]; NMR (D$_2$O) δ 2.80 & 3.62 (t & t, 2 & 2,
J$_{5-6}$ = 6.5 Hz, 5-CH$_2$ & 6-CH$_2$), 3.80 (m, 2, two 5'-H's),
δ 4.00-4.44 (m, 3, 2'-H, 3'-H and 4'-H), 5.89 (d, 1,
J$_{1'-2'}$ = 6 Hz, 1'-H); MS m/e 228.0746 (M$^+$-H$_2$O), calcd
for C$_9$H$_{12}$N$_2$O$_5$: 228.0747. Anal. Calcd for C$_9$H$_{14}$N$_2$O$_6$·1/5
H$_2$O: C, 43.27; H, 5.81; N, 11.21. Found: C, 43.37;
H, 5.69; N, 11.18.

Preparations of 1-methylformycin (155) and 2-methyl-formycin (156)

These compounds were prepared by the method of

Townsend et al.[142] Better separation of the two compounds
than that reported was effected on a Dowex 1x2 (OH⁻)
column using stepwise elution with aqueous methanol as
noted below.

A mixture of formycin (508 mg, 1.9 mmole) and sodium
(56 mg, 2.4 mmole) in dry ethanol (12 ml) was stirred at
room temperature for 30 min. Methyl iodide (270 mg, 1.9
mmole) was added to the resulting solution, followed by
an additional portion of methyl iodide (270 mg, 1.9 mmole)
after 1.5 hr. The solution was stirred overnight at
room temperature and evaporated to dryness. The residue
was dissolved in water and applied to a column of Dowex
1x2 (OH⁻) (20 x 4.5 cm). The column was eluted with water
(600 ml), 10% aq. methanol (1200 ml) 30% aq. methanol
(1200 ml) and finally 50% aq. methanol, and 6 ml fractions
were collected. Fractions 390-468 were combined and
evaporated to dryness. The residue was crystallized from
methanol with ether diffusion to give 292 mg (55%) of
156; TLC R_f = 0.45 (solvent S_2); mp 206-207°C (lit.[142]
205-206°C); $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -93.0° (c 0.20, MeOH); UV $(H_2O)_{max}$ 317
nm (sh) (ε 8,000), 305 nm (ε 12,200), 295 nm (sh)
(ε 10,600), 234 nm (ε 5,600), (0.1N HCl)$_{max}$ 306 nm
(ε 10,000), 270 nm (ε 4,600), 260 nm (ε 4,700), 233 nm
(ε 9,200), (0.1N NaOH)$_{max}$ 318 (sh) (ε 8,100), 306 nm
(ε 12,100), 296 (sh) (ε 10,400), 234 nm (sh) (ε 5,600);
NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 3.58 (m, 2, two 5'-H's), 3.90-4.30 (m, 2,

3'-H and 4'-H), 4.13 (s, 3, N-CH$_3$), 4.61 (m, 1, 2'-H), 4.99 (d, 1, J = 5 Hz, OH), 5.14 (m, 2, 1'-H was overlapped with OH, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 7.5 Hz), 5.91 (m, 1, OH), 7.58 (s, 2, NH$_2$), 8.02 (s, 1, 5-H); MS m/e 281.1127 (M$^+$), calcd for C$_{11}$H$_{15}$N$_5$O$_4$: 281.1124). Anal. Calcd for C$_{11}$H$_{15}$N$_5$O$_4$: C, 46.97; H, 5.38; N, 24.90. Found: C, 46.79; H, 5.41; N, 25.05.

Fractions 553-732 were combined and evaporated to dryness. Crystallization from ethanol-water gave 81 mg (14%) of 155: TLC R$_f$ = 0.25 (solvent S$_2$); mp 156°C (foaming), 218-219°C (completely melted) (lit.[142] mp 170-173°C foams, dec. > 200°C, lit.[143] mp 96-98°C transition point, dec. > 200°C); [α]$_D^{23}$ -65.6° (c 0.12, MeOH); UV (H$_2$O)$_{max}$ 315 nm (sh) (ε 6,600), 302 nm (ε 11,000), 294 nm (sh) (ε 10,500), 233 nm (ε 8,600), (0.1N HCl)$_{max}$ 302 nm (ε 11,300), 239 nm (ε 10,100), (0.1N NaOH)$_{max}$ 314 nm (sh) (ε 8,300), 302 nm (ε 11,500), 294 nm (sh) (ε 10,700), 232 nm (ε 8,000); NMR (DMSO-d$_6$) δ 3.57 (m, 2, two 5'-H's), 3.90-4.20 (m, 2, 3'-H and 4'-H), 4.19 (s, 3, N-CH$_3$), 4.48 (m, 1, 2'-H), 4.87 (m, 3, 1'-H was overlapped with two OH's, $J_{1'-2'}$ = 7.5 Hz), 5.84 (m, 1, OH), 7.40 (s, 2, NH$_2$), 8.09 (s, 1, 5-H); MS m/e 281.1118 (M$^+$), calcd for C$_{11}$H$_{15}$N$_5$O$_4$: 281.1124. Anal. Calcd for C$_{11}$H$_{15}$N$_5$O$_4$·H$_2$O: C, 44.15; H, 5.73; N, 23.40. Found: C, 43.91; H, 5.46; N, 23.26.

Preparation of α-L-uridine (163), β-L-uridine (164) and α-L-cytidine (180) from their 5'-phosphate salts

Each nucleoside-5'-phosphate dilithium salt (~10 mg) was dephosphorylated with bacterial alkaline phosphatase (0.1 ml, solution of enzyme supplied by Sigma Chemical Co.) in 0.5$\underline{M}$ tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane buffer (pH 8.0)(1.5 ml) at 37°C for 5 hr. The free nucleoside was purified by descending paper chromatography (Whatman No. 1 paper) using isopropanol/conc. aqueous ammonia/water (7:1:2) as developing solvent. The product was detected by UV light (254 nm); the zone that contained the main UV absorption was cut out (R_f of α-$\underline{L}$-uridine 0.30, R_f of β-$\underline{L}$-uridine 0.31, R_f of α-$\underline{L}$-cytidine 0.29). Each free nucleoside was eluted from the paper strip with water to give α-$\underline{L}$-uridine (4.47 mg), β-$\underline{L}$-uridine (2.66 mg) and α-$\underline{L}$-cytidine (5.95 mg). The above yields were estimated by using the UV extinction values of α-$\underline{D}$-uridine[126] (ε 10,050 at 264 nm in H_2O) and uridine[126] (ε 10,300 at 262 nm in H_2O), respectively, and cytidine (ε 9,100 at 270 nm in H_2O).

α-$\underline{L}$-uridine: $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +58.0° ($\underline{c}$ 0.22, H_2O) [lit.[126] α-$\underline{D}$-uridine $[\alpha]_D$ -68° ($\underline{c}$ 1.0, H_2O)]. β-$\underline{L}$-uridine: $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ -8.3° ($\underline{c}$ 0.13, H_2O) [lit.[126] β-$\underline{D}$-uridine $[\alpha]_D$ +4.6° ($\underline{c}$ 5.2, H_2O)]. α-$\underline{L}$-cytidine $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +94.1° ($\underline{c}$ 0.30, H_2O).

Preparation of 2-methylformycin$_{ox-red}$ (157)

To 2-methylformycin (156) (140 mg, 0.5 mmole) was added sodium periodate (128 mg, 0.6 mmole) dissolved in

water (10 ml). The mixture wås stirred at room tempera-
ture while protected from light for 1.5 hr. Sodium
borohydride (40 mg, 1 mmole) was added to the solution
and stirring was continued for 30 min at room temperature.
Excess sodium borohydride was destroyed with 1$\underline{M}$ sodium
dihydrogen phosphate buffer (pH 6.5) (4 ml), and the
solution was stirred for 1 hr. AU-4 charcoal (3 g) was
added to the solution and the mixture was stirred for 4 hr.
The charcoal was collected by filtration, washed with
water and packed into a column (20 x 2.5 cm).

The column was eluted with water (200 ml), followed
by 50% aq. CH_3CN. The eluate was evaporated. The residue
was dissolved in water and decolorized with charcoal.
Evaporation of the water and crystallization of the
residue from methanol with ether diffusion gave 103 mg
(72%) of 157. Paper electrophoreis of this compound
showed an identical anodic mobility (0.45, uridine as a
standard) as 2-methylformycin$_{ox-red}$ (in situ): TLC R_f =
0.18 (solvent S_1); mp 140-143°C; specific rotations (c
0.50, H_2O) $[\alpha]_{589}^{24}$ +56.8°, $[\alpha]_{578}^{24}$ +59.8°, $[\alpha]_{546}^{24}$ +67.6°,
$[\alpha]_{436}^{24}$ +107.4°, $[\alpha]_{365}^{24}$ +130.0°; UV $(H_2O)_{max}$ 317 (sh)
(ϵ 7,900), 305 nm (ϵ 12,300), 295 nm (sh) (ϵ 10,800),
234 nm (sh) (ϵ 6,200), (0.1$\underline{N}$ HCl)$_{max}$ 306 nm (ϵ 10,700),
270 nm (ϵ 5,000), 260 nm (ϵ 5,200), 233 nm (ϵ 9,500),
(0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH)$_{max}$ 318 (sh) (ϵ 8,000) 306 nm (ϵ 12,100), 296
nm (sh) (ϵ 10,500), 234 nm (sh) (ϵ 6,400); NMR (DMSO-d$_6$)

δ 3.38 (m, 6, 2'-H$_2$, 3'-H$_2$, 5'-H$_2$), 4.19 (s, 3, N-CH$_3$), 3.87 (t, 1, J = 5 Hz, 4'-H), 5.16 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 1'-H), 7.50 (s, 2, NH$_2$), 8.04 (s, 1, 5-H); MS m/e 284.1356 (M$^+$+1) , calcd for C$_{11}$H$_{18}$N$_5$O$_4$: 284.1359. <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for C$_{11}$H$_{17}$N$_5$O$_4$·1/3 H$_2$O: C, 45.67; H, 6.16; N, 24.21. Found: C, 45.68; H, 6.07; N, 24.13.

Preparation of 3-methyl-6-azauridine$_{ox-red}$ (<u>185</u>)

3-Methyl-6-azauridine (<u>184</u>) (100 mg, 0.39 mmole) was treated in the same manner as described above for the preparation of 2-methylformycin$_{ox-red}$ (<u>157</u>) to obtain 89 mg of <u>185</u> as a syrup (85% yield estimated from the extinction coefficient of 3-methyl-6-azauridine (<u>184</u>); ε 6,500 at 263 nm in MeOH). Paper electrophoresis of this compound showed an identical anodic mobility (0.48, uridine as a standard) as 3-methyl-6-azauridine$_{ox-red}$ (<u>in situ</u>); TLC R$_f$ = 0.60 (solvent S$_1$), R$_f$ = 0.68 (solvent S$_3$); UV (MeOH)$_{max}$ 263 nm, specific rotations (<u>c</u> 0.52, H$_2$O) (concentration estimated using the extinction coefficient of <u>184</u>) $[\alpha]_{589}^{23}$ -26.4°, $[\alpha]_{578}^{23}$ -27.8°, $[\alpha]_{546}^{23}$ -33.6°, $[\alpha]_{436}^{23}$ -73.4°, $[\alpha]_{365}^{23}$ -162.3°; NMR (DMSO-d$_6$) δ 3.18 (s, 3, CH$_3$ overlapped with sugar proton), 3.10-3.80 (m, 7, 2'-H$_2$, 3'-H$_2$, 5'-H$_2$ and 4'-H), 4.30-5.10 (bs, 3, three OH's), 5.89 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 1'-H), 7.64 (s, 1, 5-H).

Preparation of adenosine$_{ox-red}$ (43)[108,114,121]

To adenosine (42) (1 g, 3.7 mmole) was added an 80 mM of solution of sodium periodate (50 ml, 4 mmole), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hr while protected from light. The resulting solution was cooled in an ice bath and sodium borohydride (282 mg, 7.5 mmole) dissolved in water (10 ml) was added. The solution was stirred for 15 min in the ice bath followed by 45 min at room temperature. The solution was neutralized with acetic acid and stirred with AU-4 charcoal (7 g) until UV absorption indicated <5% of the nucleoside re-mained in solution. The charcoal was collected by fil-tration and washed with water (~200 ml). The crude product was eluted from the charcoal by continuous extrac-tion for 2 days in a soxhlet apparatus with ethanol/conc. aqueous ammonia (9:1) (300 ml). After evaporation of the extract, the residue was dissolved in water and applied to a column of Dowex 1x2 (OH$^-$) resin (35 x 2.5 cm). The column was washed with water (150 ml), and the product was eluted with 20% aq. methanol. Appropriate fractions were combined and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in aqueous ethanol and decolorized by treatment with charcoal. Evaporation of the solvent and crystalliza-tion of the residue from ethanol with ether diffusion gave 630 mg (63%) of 43: TLC R$_f$ = 0.17 (solvent S$_1$);

mp 139-141°C; [lit.[121] mp 143-145°C]; UV $(H_2O)_{max}$ 260 nm (ϵ 15,200), $(0.1\underline{N}$ HCl$)_{max}$ 258 nm (ϵ 14,600), $(0.1\underline{N}$ NaOH$)_{max}$ 261 nm (ϵ 15,000); NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 3.18 (m, 2, 3'-H_2), 3.48 (m, 3, 5'-H_2 and 4'-H), 3.86 (t, 2, J = 6 Hz, 2'-H_2), 4.42 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 5'-OH), 4.66 (t, 1, J = 5 Hz, 3'-OH), 5.11 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 2'-OH), 5.87 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 1'-H), 7.19 (s, 2, NH_2), 8.14 (s, 1, 2-H), 8.25 (s, 1, 8-H); MS m/e 269.1121 (M^+), calcd for $C_{10}H_{15}N_5O_4$: 269.1124. <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{15}N_5O_4$: C, 44.61; H, 5.62; N, 26.01. Found: C, 44.38; 5.45; N, 26.28.

Preparation of tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ (<u>209</u>)

Tubercidin$_{ox-red}$ was prepared from tubercidin (<u>158</u>) (1 g, 3.7 mmole) by the same procedure used for the preparation of adenosine$_{ox-red}$ (<u>43</u>). The product, 580 mg (58%) of <u>209</u>, was obtained as a hygroscopic foam after co-evaporation with toluene (2 ml x 2), followed by drying at 50°C over P_2O_5 in vacuo overnight: TLC R_f = 0.26 (solvent S_1); UV $(H_2O)_{max}$ 270 nm (ϵ 11,500), $(0.1\underline{N}$ HCl$)_{max}$ 272 nm (ϵ 10,800), $(0.1\underline{N}$ NaOH$)_{max}$ 270 nm (ϵ 10,900); NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 3.00-4.00 (m, 7, 2'-H_2, 3'-H_2, 5'-H_2 and 4'-H), 4.38 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, OH), 4.57 (t, 1, J = 5 Hz, OH), 4.98 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, OH), 6.00 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 1'-H), 6.56 (d, 1, J = 4 Hz, 5-H), 6.95 (s, 1, NH_2), 7.24 (d, 1, J = 4 Hz, 6-H), 8.04 (s, 1, 2-H); MS (CI/NH_3) 269 (M^++1). <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for $C_{11}H_{16}N_4O_4 \cdot 1/4\ H_2O$: C, 48.44;

H, 6.10; N, 20.54. Found: C, 48.30; H, 6.15; N, 20.65.

Preparation of inosine$_{ox-red}$ (135)[109]

Inosine (160) (1 g, 3.7 mmole) was treated in the
same manner as described for the preparation of adeno-
sine$_{ox-red}$ (43). The crude product obtained from evapo-
ration of the extract was dissolved in water and applied
to a column of Dowex 1x2 (OH$^-$) resin (35 x 2.5 cm). The
column was washed with water (150 ml), and the product
was eluted with a 200 mM aqueous solution of triethyl-
ammonium bicarbonate (pH 7.5). Evaporation of the eluate,
decolorization of the solution with charcoal and crystal-
lization from ethanol (with small amount of water) with
ether diffusion gave 743 mg of 135: TLC R_f = 0.11 (sol-
vent S_1); mp 207-209°C; [lit.[109] mp 207°C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +70.2°
($\underline{c}$, 1.61, H_2O)]; UV (H_2O)$_{max}$ 250 nm (ε 12,500), (0.1$\underline{N}$
HCl)$_{max}$ 249 nm (ε 11,400), (0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH)$_{max}$ 254 nm
(ε 13,000); NMR (DMSO-d$_6$) δ 3.00-4.00 (m, sugar protons),
3.83 (d, 2, J = 6 Hz, sugar CH$_2$) 4.40 (bs, 1, OH), 4.70
(bs, 1, OH), 5.10 (bs, 1, OH), 5.84 (t, J = 6 Hz, 1'-H),
8.04 (s, 1, 2-H), 8.20 (s, 1, 8-H); MS m/e 270.0966 (M$^+$),
calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}N_4O_5$: 270.0964. Anal. Calcd for
$C_{10}H_{14}N_4O_5$: C, 44.44; H, 5.22; N, 20.73. Found: C,
44.51; H, 5.17; N, 20.83.

Preparation of uridine$_{ox-red}$ (136)[108,114]

Uridine (<u>161</u>) (1 g, 4 mmole) was treated in the same manner as described for the preparation of adenosine$_{ox-red}$ (<u>43</u>). The crude product obtained from evaporation of the extract was dissolved in water and applied to a Dowex 1x2 (OH$^-$) column (35 x 2.5 cm). The column was washed with water (150 ml), and eluted with a 200 m$\underline{M}$ aqueous solution of triethylammonium bicarbonate (pH ~ 7.5). Appropriate fractions were collected and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in water, decolorized with charcoal and lyophilized. Further drying over P$_2$O$_5$ at 100°C overnight gave 560 mg of <u>136</u> as an extremely hygroscopic solid glass: TLC R$_f$ = 0.31 (solvent S$_1$); UV (H$_2$O)$_{max}$ 262 nm (ε 10,100), (0.1$\underline{N}$ HCl)$_{max}$ 262 nm (ε 10,100), (0.1$\underline{N}$ NaOH)$_{max}$ 262 nm (ε 7,500); NMR (DMSO-d$_6$) δ 3.20-3.70 (m, sugar protons), 4.58 (m, 2, two OH's), 5.03 (bs, 1, OH), 5.56 (d, 1, J = 8 Hz, 5-H), 5.77 (t, 1, J = 6 Hz, 1'-H), 7.61 (t, 1, J = 8 Hz, 6-H), 11.14 (bs, 1, NH); MS m/e 215.0671 (M$^+$-CH$_2$OH), calcd for C$_8$H$_{11}$N$_2$O$_5$: 215.0668. <u>Anal</u>. Calcd for C$_9$H$_{14}$N$_2$O$_6$: C, 43.90; H, 5.73; N, 11.38. Found: C, 43.67; H, 5.88; N, 11.08.

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